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JOURNAL

OF THE

GENERAL CONFERENCE

OF THE

Methodist Episcopal Church, South,

HELD IN NEW ORLEANS, 1866.

EDITED BY T. O. SUMMERS, D.D.

Nashville, Tenn.:

PUBLISHED BY A. H. REDFORD,

FOR THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH.

1866.

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DELEGATES ELECT

To the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, appointed to meet in New Orleans, April, 1862, but which held no Session on account of the War.

KENTUCKY CONFERENCE.—J. G. Bruce, J. C. Harrison, E. P. Buckner, W. C. Dandy, R. Hiner. <i>Reserves</i> : S. L. Robertson, S. Noland.....	5
LOUISVILLE.—J. H. Linn, C. B. Parsons, J. H. Owen, E. W. Schon, T. J. Moore. <i>Reserves</i> : Thomas Bottomly, W. H. Morrison	5
MISSOURI.—Wm. G. Caples, Andrew Monroe, C. I. Vandeventer, W. H. Anderson, Tyson Dines, Berry H. Spencer. <i>Reserves</i> : E. K. Miller, P. M. Pinckard, Jesse Bird.....	6
ST. LOUIS.—Enoch M. Marvin, Wm. M. Prottsman, Joseph Boyle, John R. Bennett, David R. McAnally, Daniel A. Leeper. <i>Reserves</i> : Benjamin T. Kavanaugh, Warren Wharton.....	6
KANSAS MISSION.—Nathan Scarritt, Thomas Wallace.....	2
TENNESSEE.—John B. McFerrin, Samuel D. Baldwin, Alexander L. P. Green, Adam S. Riggs, John W. Hanner, Robert A. Young, Joseph B. West, Fountain E. Pitts, John F. Hughes, Ferdinand S. Petway. <i>Reserves</i> : Richard P. Ransom, James R. Plummer, Simon P. Whitten.....	10
HOLSTON.—E. E. Wiley, E. F. Sevier, James Atkins, James S. Kennedy, Rufus M. Stevens, J. M. McTeer, William Robeson. <i>Reserves</i> : George W. Alexander, Anson W. Cummings.....	7
MEMPHIS.—George W. D. Harris, Thomas L. Boswell, Guilford Jones, Smith W. Moore, Edward C. Slater, Joseph H. Brooks, Lorenzo D. Mullins, John Moss, Samuel Watson. <i>Reserves</i> : Finley Bynum, William McMahon	9
MISSISSIPPI.—Levi Pearce, John G. Jones, David M. Wiggins, W. B. Hines, John J. Wheat, H. H. Montgomery. <i>Reserves</i> : H. J. Harris, W. P. Barton.....	6
LOUISIANA.—Robert J. Harp, James A. Ivey, Anderson B. Fly, Stephen J. Davies, Benjamin F. White. <i>Reserves</i> : Thomas B. White, Joseph D. Adams.....	5
VIRGINIA.—David S. Doggett, Leroy M. Lee, William A. Smith, George W. Langhorne, Leonidas Rosser, John E. Edwards, William W. Bennett, William B. Rowzie, James D. Coulling, Henry B. Cowles, Joseph H. Davis. <i>Reserves</i> : James A. Duncan, Philmer W. Archer, John C. Granberry.....	11

WESTERN VIRGINIA.—S. Hargiss, S. K. Vaught, S. Field. <i>Reserves</i> : S. Kelly, C. M. Sullivan.....	3
NORTH CAROLINA.—N. F. Reid, C. F. Deems, N. H. D. Wilson, W. Barringer, Ira T. Wyche, D. B. Nicholson, Peter Doub. <i>Reserves</i> : W. H. Bobbitt, W. E. Pell	7
SOUTH CAROLINA.—A. M. Shipp, W. A. Gamewell, H. A. C. Walker, R. J. Boyd, W. A. McSwain, S. H. Browne, W. P. Mouzon, J. Stacy, H. C. Parsons, C. Betts. <i>Reserves</i> : J. T. Wightman, C. H. Pritchard, H. M. Mood.....	10
GEORGIA.—Samuel Anthony, Lovick Pierce, J. W. Glenn, W. J. Parks, James E. Evans, A. T. Mann, E. H. Myers, James W. Hinton, Alexander Means, J. S. Key, W. R. Branham, J. G. Pearce. <i>Reserves</i> : W. H. Potter, Josiah Lewis, J. B. Payne.	12
ALABAMA.—Thomas O. Summers, William M. Wightman, Jefferson Hamilton, Oliver R. Blue, William J. Sasnett, Frederick G. Ferguson, Philip P. Neely, Archelaus H. Mitchell, William Murrah, Joseph J. Hutchinson, Christopher D. Oliver, James A. Heard. <i>Reserves</i> : Mark S. Andrews, L. M. Wilson, George Shaeffer.....	12
FLORIDA.—Peyton P. Smith, Josephus Anderson, Reuben H. Luckey, John W. Mills. <i>Reserves</i> : Samuel Woodberry, Jasper C. Glover.....	4
RIO GRANDE.—Jesse Boring, Ivey H. Cox. <i>Reserves</i> : John W. De Vilbiss, Frederick Vordenbimen.....	2
TEXAS.—R. Alexander, James W. Shipman, J. W. Whipple, George W. Carter, James E. Ferguson, Isaac G. John, R. T. P. Allen. <i>Reserves</i> : R. W. Kennon, W. H. Seat, J. W. Phillips, A. Davidson.....	7
EAST TEXAS.—James E. Carnes, Samuel A. Williams, Levi R. Dennis, John W. Fields, Robert S. Finley. <i>Reserves</i> : John W. P. McKenzie, James S. P. Irvine.....	5
ARKANSAS.—John M. Steele, Lewis P. Lively, John Cowle. <i>Reserves</i> : Russel Reneau, Richard H. Dodson.....	3
WACHITA.—Andrew Hunter, James E. Cobb, Jesse S. McAlister, John Pryer. <i>Reserves</i> : John H. Blakely, D. L. G. McKenzie.	4
INDIAN MISSION.—John Harrell, Thomas Bertholf. <i>Reserve</i> : Young Ewing.....	2
PACIFIC.—Oscar P. Fitzgerald, W. R. Gober, O. Fisher. <i>Reserves</i> : A. M. Baily, J. C. Simmons.....	3
<i>Total</i>	146

DELEGATES ELECT

TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE, 1866.

BALTIMORE CONFERENCE.—Samuel Register, John S. Martin, Eldridge R. Veitch, Norval Wilson, S. Samuel Roszel, William G. Eggleston. <i>Reserves</i> : James S. Gardner, Samuel Rodgers, John Poisal.....	6
VIRGINIA —Leroy M. Lee, David S. Doggett, William A. Smith, James A. Duncan, Nelson Head, William W. Bennett, John E. Edwards, John C. Granberry, George W. Langhorne, Peter A. Peterson, Leonidas Rosser. <i>Reserves</i> : Paul Whitehead, Joseph H. Davis.....	11
WESTERN VIRGINIA.—Shadrach Hargiss, S. Mullin, Wayne Kennedy. <i>Reserves</i> : J. F. Medley, W. Shearer.....	3
NORTH CAROLINA —Numa F. Reid, Charles F. Deems, Braxton Craven, William H. Bobbitt, Nathan H. D. Wilson, Lingurn S. Burkhead, Robert S. Moran. <i>Reserves</i> : D. B. Nicholson, William Barringer, William Closs.....	7
SOUTH CAROLINA.—Whitefoord Smith, Albert M. Shipp, Whatcoate A. Gamewell, Hugh A. C. Walker, Sidi H. Browne, R. J. Boyd, James Stacy, William H. Fleming, Charles Betts. <i>Reserves</i> : J. W. Kelly, J. R. Pickett, W. P. Mouzon.....	9
GEORGIA.—Lovick Pierce, William J. Parks, Samuel Anthony, John W. Glenn, James E. Evans, Edward H. Myers, Alfred T. Mann, Joseph S. Key, G. Jefferson Pearce, William M. Crumley, Weyman H. Potter, Walter R. Branham, Harwell H. Parks <i>Reserves</i> : Alexander Means, J. Blakey Smith, John W. Hinton.....	13
FLORIDA.—Josephus Anderson, S. P. Richardson, J. W. Mills, Samuel Woodberry. <i>Reserves</i> : T. H. Capers, N. B. Ousley.	4
MONTGOMERY.—Holland N. McTyeire, Oliver R. Blue, William H. Ellison, William A. McCarty, Bennett B. Ross, Joseph B. Cottrell, Mark S. Andrews. <i>Reserves</i> : William M. Motley, Christopher C. Oliver.....	7
MOBILE.—Thomas O. Summers, William W. Wightman, Jefferson Hamilton, Philip P. Neely, Archelaus H. Mitchell, R. K. Hargrove, Thomas W. Dorman. <i>Reserves</i> : William Murrah, Christopher C. Callaway.....	7
LOUISIANA.—John C. Keener, Linus Parker, Joseph B. Walker, Robert J. Harp, William E. M. Linfield. <i>Reserves</i> : N. A. Cravens, James A. Ivey.....	5

MISSISSIPPI.—Levi Pearce, John G. Jones, William H. Watkins, Henderson H. Montgomery, Benjamin Jones, Whitefield Harrington, James MacLennan, Charles K. Marshall. <i>Reserves</i> : Harvey F. Johnson, W. P. Barton.....	8
MEMPHIS.—Thomas L. Boswell, George W. D. Harris, Guilford Jones, Michael J. Blackwell, Samuel Watson, John Moss, William C. Johnson, Finley Bynum, Lorenzo D. Mullins. <i>Reserves</i> : S. W. Moore, Joseph H. Brooks, Thomas Joyner.....	9
TENNESSEE.—John B. McFerrin, John W. Hanner, Samuel D. Baldwin, Alexander L. P. Green, Robert A. Young, Adam S. Riggs, Joseph B. West, John F. Hughes, Thomas Maddin, Wellborn Mooney, William Burr. <i>Reserves</i> : Ferdinand S. Petway, R. P. Ransom, Simon P. Whitten.....	11
HOLSTON.—E. E. Wiley, W. G. E. Cunnyingham, James Atkins, J. S. Kennedy, J. M. McTeer. <i>Reserves</i> : C. Long, G. Taylor.	5
KENTUCKY.—Robert Hiner, Joseph Rand, S. L. Robertson, Elkanah Johnson, L. D. Huston. <i>Reserves</i> : G. W. Maley, G. W. Merritt.	5
LOUISVILLE.—John H. Linn, Edmund W. Schon, William H. Anderson, Nathanael H. Lee, Albert H. Redford. <i>Reserves</i> : George W. Brush, William H. Morrison.....	5
ST. LOUIS.—D. R. McAnally, W. M. Prottzman, F. A. Morris, G. M. Winton, J. T. Peery. <i>Reserves</i> : F. M. Finney, J. Godby.	5
MISSOURI.—P. M. Pinckard, Andrew Monroe, C. I. Vandeventer, B. H. Spencer, W. M. Rush. <i>Reserves</i> : H. Brown, W. A. Mayhew, W. M. Newland.....	5
ARKANSAS.—E. T. Jones, J. M. P. Hickerson, John M. Steele.....	3
WACHITA.—Andrew Hunter, W. P. Ratcliffe, J. E. Cobb, A. R. Winfield. <i>Reserves</i> : H. Jewel, J. Pryor.....	4
INDIAN MISSION.—John Harrell, J. H. Carr. <i>Reserve</i> : Thomas Bertholf.....	2
EAST TEXAS.—W. H. Hughes, J. B. Tullis, L. R. Dennis, J. M. Binckley, J. W. P. McKenzie, W. A. Shook.....	6
TEXAS.—Robert Alexander, W. McK. Lambdin, Thomas Stamford, W. G. Veal, Asbury Davidson, Isaac G. John, J. W. Whipple, John Philips. <i>Reserves</i> : W. H. Seat, J. E. Ferguson.....	8
RIO GRANDE.—Jesse Boring, J. W. De Vilbiss. <i>Reserves</i> : R. H. Belvin, J. W. Cooley.....	2
PACIFIC.—W. R. Gober, O. P. Fitzgerald, J. C. Simmons.....	3
<i>Total</i>	153

MEMBERS

OF THE

Fifty General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

BALTIMORE CONFERENCE.—Samuel Register, John S. Martin, Eldridge R. Veitch, Norval Wilson, S. Samuel Roszel, William G. Eggleston.—John Poisal, Reserve, substituted W. G. Eggleston a part of the session.....	6
VIRGINIA.—Leroy M. Lee, David S. Doggett, William A. Smith, James A. Duncan, Nelson Head, William W. Bennett, John E. Edwards, John C. Granberry, Peter A. Peterson, Leonidas Rosser, Paul Whitehead.....	11
WESTERN VIRGINIA.—Shadrach Hargiss, Wayne Kennedy.....	2
NORTH CAROLINA.—Numa F. Reid, Charles F. Deems, Braxton Craven, William H. Bobbitt, Nathan H. D. Wilson, Lingurn S. Burkhead, Robert S. Moran.....	7
SOUTH CAROLINA.—Whitefoord Smith, Albert M. Shipp, Hugh A. C. Walker, Sidi H. Browne, Robert J. Boyd, James Stacy, William H. Fleming, Charles Betts, John W. Kelly.—John R. Pickett, Reserve, substituted Whatcoate A. Gamewell and Charles Betts parts of the session.....	9
GEORGIA.—Lovick Pierce, Samuel Anthony, John W. Glenn, James E. Evans, Edward H. Myers, Alfred T. Mann, Joseph S. Key, William M. Crumley, Weyman H. Potter, Walter R. Branham, Harwell H. Parks, Alexander Means, J. Blakely Smith...	13
FLORIDA.—Josephus Anderson, Simon Peter Richardson, John W. Mills, Samuel Woodberry.....	4
MONTGOMERY.—Holland N. McTyeire, Oliver R. Blue, William H. Ellison, William A. McCarty, Bennett B. Ross, Joseph B. Cottrell, Mark S. Andrews.....	7
MOBILE.—Thomas O. Summers, William M. Wightman, Jefferson Hamilton, Philip P. Neely, Archelaus H. Mitchell, Robert K. Hargrove, Thomas W. Dorman.—Christopher C. Callaway, Reserve, substituted W. M. Wightman after his ordination as Bishop.....	7
LOUISIANA.—John C. Keener, Linus Parker, Joseph B. Walker, Robert J. Harp, William E. M. Linfield.....	5

MISSISSIPPI.—Levi Pearce, John G. Jones, William H. Watkins, Henderson H. Montgomery, Benjamin Jones, Whitefield Harrington, James MacLennan, Charles K. Marshall.—Harvey F. Johnson, Reserve, substituted Levi Pearce a part of the session.	8
MEMPHIS.—Thomas L. Boswell, George W. D. Harris, Guilford Jones, Michael J. Blackwell, Samuel Watson, John Moss, William C. Johnson, Finley Bynum, Lorenzo D. Mullins.—Joseph H. Brooks, Reserve, substituted G. Jones, T. L. Boswell, and M. J. Blackwell parts of the session.....	9
TENNESSEE.—John B. McFerrin, John W. Hanner, Samuel D. Baldwin, Alexander L. P. Green, Robert A. Young, Adam S. Riggs, Joseph B. West, John F. Hughes, Thomas Maddin, Wellborn Mooney, William Burr.—Ferdinand S. Petway substituted W. Mooney and S. D. Baldwin parts of the session.....	11
HOLSTON.—Ephraim E. Wiley, William G. E. Cunnynggham, James Atkins, James S. Kennedy, John M. McTeer.....	5
KENTUCKY.—Robert Hiner, Joseph Rand, Elkanah Johnson, Lorenzo D. Huston.....	4
LOUISVILLE.—John H. Linn, Edmund W. Sehon, William H. Anderson, Nathanael H. Lee, Albert H. Redford.....	5
ST. LOUIS.—David R. McAnally, William M. Prottzman, Francis A. Morris, George M. Winton, John T. Peery.....	5
MISSOURI.—Patrick M. Pinckard, Andrew Monroe, Cornelius I. Vandeventer, Berry H. Spencer, William M. Rush.....	5
ARKANSAS.—Edward T. Jones, Joseph M. P. Hickerson, John M. Steele.....	3
WACHITA.—Andrew Hunter, William P. Ratcliffe, James E. Cobb, Augustus R. Winfield.....	4
INDIAN MISSION.—John Harrell, John H. Carr.....	2
EAST TEXAS.—William H. Hughes, John B. Tullis, Levi R. Dennis, Jacob M. Binckley, John W. P. McKenzie.....	5
TEXAS.—Robert Alexander, William McK. Lambdin, Thomas Stamford, William G. Veal, Asbury Davidson, Isaac G. John, Josiah W. Whipple, William H. Seat.....	8
RIO GRANDE.—Jesse Boring, John W. De Vilbiss.....	2
PACIFIC.—William R. Gober, Oscar P. Fitzgerald.....	2

Total 149

JOURNAL
OF THE
General Conference
OF THE
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH,
APRIL 4—MAY 3, 1866.

THE Fifth General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was held in the Carondelet Street Church, New Orleans, beginning Wednesday, April 4, 1866.

The session was opened by Bishop Andrew, by reading Heb. xii., singing the 261st Hymn,

High on his everlasting throne, etc.,

followed by an appropriate prayer by Bishop Early.

Three of the Bishops were present, to wit: James O. Andrew, John Early, and Hubbard H. Kavanaugh.

The Secretary of the last Conference called the list of the Annual Conferences; and the following delegates presented their vouchers of election and took their seats accordingly, to wit:—

BALTIMORE CONFERENCE.—Norval Wilson.

VIRGINIA CONFERENCE.—David S. Doggett, James A. Duncan, John E. Edwards.

WESTERN VIRGINIA CONFERENCE.—Shadrach Hargiss, Wayne Kennedy.

NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE.—Numa F. Reid, Charles F. Deems, Braxton Craven, William H. Bobbitt, Nathan H. D. Wilson.

SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE.—Whitefoord Smith, Albert M. Shipp, Hugh A. C. Walker, Sidi H. Browne, Robert J. Boyd, James Stacy,

William H. Fleming, Charles Betts, and John R. Pickett, Reserve in place of Whatcoate A. Gamewell.

GEORGIA CONFERENCE.—Samuel Anthony, John W. Glenn, James E. Evans, Edward H. Myers, Alfred T. Mann, Joseph S. Key, William M. Crumley, Weyman H. Potter, and Harwell H. Parks, Reserve in place of Wm. J. Parks, and J. Blakely Smith, Reserve in place of G. J. Pearce.

FLORIDA CONFERENCE.—Simon Peter Richardson.

MONTGOMERY CONFERENCE.—Oliver Rufus Blue, Wm. H. Ellison, Wm. A. McCarty, Bennett B. Ross, Joseph B. Cottrell, Mark S. Andrews.

MOBILE CONFERENCE.—Thomas O. Summers, Wm. M. Wightman, Jefferson Hamilton, Archelaus H. Mitchell.

LOUISIANA CONFERENCE.—John C. Keener, Linus Parker, Joseph B. Walker, Robert J. Harp, Wm. E. M. Linfield.

MISSISSIPPI CONFERENCE.—Levi Pearce, John G. Jones, William H. Watkins, Henderson H. Montgomery, Benjamin Jones, Whitefield Harrington, James MacLennan.

MEMPHIS CONFERENCE.—George W. D. Harris, Michael J. Blackwell, Samuel Watson, John Moss, Wm. C. Johnson, Finley Bynum, Lorenzo D. Mullins.

TENNESSEE CONFERENCE.—John B. McFerrin, John W. Hanner, Alexander L. P. Green, Robert A. Young, Adam S. Riggs, Joseph B. West, John F. Hughes, Thomas Maddin, William Burr, and Ferdinand S. Petway, Reserve in place of Wellborn Mooney.

HOLSTON CONFERENCE.—John M. McTeer.

LOUISVILLE CONFERENCE.—Edmund W. Sehon, William H. Anderson, Nathanael H. Lee.

WACHITA CONFERENCE.—William P. Ratcliffe, James E. Cobb, Augustus R. Winfield.

INDIAN MISSION CONFERENCE.—John Harrell, John H. Carr.

EAST TEXAS CONFERENCE.—Wm. H. Hughes, John B. Tullis, Jacob M. Binckley, John W. P. McKenzie.

TEXAS CONFERENCE.—Robert Alexander, William McKendree Lambdin, Thomas Stamford, Wm. G. Veal, Asbury Davidson, Isaac G. John, Joseph W. Whipple, Wm. H. Seat.

PACIFIC CONFERENCE.—Oscar P. Fitzgerald.

On motion of Wm. M. Wightman, Thos. O. Summers, of the Mobile Conference, was elected Secretary.

The hours of 9 and 12 were appointed as the times of meeting and adjournment.

The Presiding Elder of the New Orleans District, and the Pastors of the New Orleans Churches, were appointed a Committee on Public Worship.

The second pillar of the church, counting from the pulpit, was made the bar of the house.

On motion of A. H. Mitchell, J. C. Keener, E. H. Myers, and J. B. McFerrin, were appointed a Committee to inquire into the expediency of publishing the Proceedings of Conference in a daily paper.

Bishop Early took the chair.

On motion of W. M. Wightman and T. O. Summers, the following Standing Committees, to consist of one member from each Annual Conference, each delegation to appoint its own members on said committees, were ordered:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. On Episcopacy. | 5. On Missions. |
| 2. On Itinerancy. | 6. On Revisal. |
| 3. On Books and Periodicals. | 7. On Sunday-schools. |
| 4. On Boundaries. | 8. On Education. |

9. On the Religious Interests of the Colored People.

A Committee on the Circulation of the Holy Scriptures was then ordered.

On motion of J. Hamilton, the session was prolonged till 2 o'clock.

On motion of W. M. Wightman, the Rules of previous General Conferences were adopted.

On motion of D. S. Doggett, the Secretary was instructed to have the Rules published in the Daily Christian Advocate.

A communication from Bishop Soule, through J. B. McFerrin, was received and read, whereupon, on motion of Whitefoord Smith,

Resolved, That the General Conference has received with deep emotion the communication from the Rev. Bishop Soule, through Dr. McFerrin, and rejoices to know that he is still sustained and comforted by the consolations of our holy religion, which he has so long lived to preach and to exemplify in his useful and honored life, and that this Conference tenders to our beloved senior Bishop its kindest sympathies, and prefers for him its warmest prayers.

The Conference then adjourned with the benediction by the Bishop.

Thursday Morning, April 5, 1866.

Conference met at the stated hour, Bishop Early in the chair. Religious services were conducted by A. L. P. Green.

The Minutes were read and approved.

Bishop Kavanaugh took the chair.

Bishop Paine appeared in the Conference-room.

The following Delegates presented vouchers of election, and took their seats accordingly:—

VIRGINIA CONFERENCE.—Leroy M. Lee, Wm. A. Smith, Nelson Head, Wm. W. Bennett, John C. Granberry, Peter A. Peterson, Leonidas Rosser, and Paul Whitehead, Reserve, in place of George W. Langhorne.

NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE.—Lingurn S. Burkhead, Robert S. Moran.

SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE.—John W. Kelly, Reserve in place of W. A. Gamewell.

GEORGIA CONFERENCE.—Walter R. Branham.

FLORIDA CONFERENCE.—Josephus Anderson, Samuel Woodberry.

MOBILE CONFERENCE.—Philip P. Neely, Thomas W. Dorman.

MISSISSIPPI CONFERENCE.—Charles K. Marshall.

MEMPHIS CONFERENCE.—Joseph H. Brooks, Reserve in place of Guilford Jones.

TENNESSEE CONFERENCE.—Samuel D. Baldwin.

HOLSTON CONFERENCE.—Ephraim E. Wiley, Wm. G. E. Cunnyng-
ham, James Atkins, James S. Kennedy.

MISSOURI CONFERENCE.—Patrick M. Pinckard, Andrew Monroe, Cornelius I. Vandeventer, Berry H. Spencer, Wm. M. Rush.

ST. LOUIS CONFERENCE.—David R. McAnally, Wm. M. Prottzman, Francis A. Morris, George M. Winton, John T. Peery.

LOUISVILLE CONFERENCE.—John H. Linn.

On motion of C. K. Marshall, Conference took a recess of fifteen minutes, to allow the several delegations to nominate the members of the Standing Committees.

After the recess the delegations reported, as follows:—

STANDING COMMITTEES.

CONFERENCES.	EPISCOPACY.	ITINERANCY.	BOOKS AND PERIODICALS.
Baltimore, Virginia, Western Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Montgomery, Mobile, Louisiana, Mississippi, Memphis, Tennessee, Holston, Kentucky, Louisville, Missouri, St. Louis, Arkansas, Wachita, Indian Mission, East Texas, Texas, Rio Grande, Pacific.	S. Register, W. A. Smith, S. Hargiss, N. F. Reid, J. Stacy, J. W. Glenn, J. Anderson, W. H. Ellison, W. M. Wightman, J. C. Keener, J. G. Jones, G. W. D. Harris, J. B. McFerrin, E. E. Wiley, R. Hiner, W. H. Anderson, A. Monroe, F. A. Morris, J. M. Steele, W. P. Ratcliffe, J. Harrell, J. W. P. McKenzie, R. Alexander, J. Boring, O. P. Fitzgerald.	N. Wilson, L. M. Lee, W. Kennedy, C. F. Deems, S. H. Browne, S. Anthony, S. Woodberry, W. A. McCarty, A. H. Mitchell, S. Parker, B. Jones, M. J. Blackwell, R. A. Young, J. M. McTeer, E. Johnson, J. H. Linn, W. M. Rush, W. M. Prottzman, E. T. Jones, A. Hunter, J. H. Carr, J. M. Binkley, W. McK. Lambdin, J. W. De Vilbiss, W. R. Gober.	W. G. Eggleston, P. Whitehead, S. Hargiss, W. H. Bobbitt, C. Betts, J. S. Key, S. P. Richardson, H. N. McTyeire, T. W. Dorman, R. J. Harp, H. H. Montgomery, S. Watson, A. L. P. Green, J. Atkins, R. Hiner, A. H. Redford, P. M. Pinckard, D. R. McAnally, J. M. Steele, J. E. Cobb, J. Harrell, L. R. Dennis, J. W. Whipple, J. Boring, W. R. Gober.

CONFERENCES.	BOUNDARIES.	MISSIONS.	REVISAL.
Baltimore, Virginia, Western Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Montgomery, Mobile, Louisiana, Mississippi, Memphis, Tennessee, Holston, Kentucky, Louisville, Missouri, St. Louis, Arkansas, Wachita, Indian Mission, East Texas, Texas, Rio Grande, Pacific.	E. R. Veitch, W. W. Bennett, W. Kennedy, L. S. Burkhead, W. H. Fleming, H. H. Parks, S. Woodberry, M. S. Anderson, J. Hamilton, L. Parker, L. Pearce, F. Eynura, A. S. Riggs, J. Atkins, J. Rand, E. W. Schon, B. H. Spencer, G. M. Winton, J. M. P. Hickerson, A. Hunter, J. Harrell, W. H. Hughes, A. Davidson, J. W. De Vilbiss, O. P. Fitzgerald.	S. S. Roszel, L. Rosser, S. Hargiss, R. S. Moran, R. J. Boyd, W. H. Potter, J. W. Mills, J. B. Cottrell, J. P. Neely, F. B. Walker, C. K. Marshall, T. L. Boswell, J. F. Hughes, W. G. E. Cunyningham, E. Johnson, E. W. Schon, C. I. Vandeventer, J. T. Peery, E. T. Jones, A. R. Winfield, J. H. Carr, L. R. Dennis, W. H. Seat, J. Boring, O. P. Fitzgerald.	J. S. Martin, J. A. Duncan, W. Kennedy, N. H. D. Wilson, W. Smith, E. H. Myers, S. P. Richardson, O. R. Blue, T. O. Summers, J. B. Walker, J. MacLennan, W. C. Johnson, J. W. Hanner, J. S. Kennedy, L. D. Huston, N. E. Lee, P. M. Pinckard, D. R. McAnally, J. M. P. Hickerson, A. R. Winfield, J. Harrell, J. B. Tullis, I. G. John, J. Boring, W. R. Gober.

CONFERENCES.	SUNDAY-SCHOOLS.	EDUCATION.	COLORED PEOPLE.
Baltimore, Virginia, Western Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Montgomery, Mobile, Louisiana, Mississippi, Memphis, Tennessee, Holston, Kentucky, Louisville, Missouri, St. Louis, Arkansas, Wachita, Indian Mission, East Texas, Texas, Rio Grande, Pacific.	W. G. Eggleston, J. E. Edwards, W. Kennedy, W. H. Bobbitt, J. W. Kelly, W. M. Crumley, J. W. Mills, J. B. Cottrell, P. P. Neely, W. E. M. Linfield, W. Harrington, L. D. Mullins, T. Maddin, W. G. E. Cunyningham, J. Rand, J. H. Linn, B. H. Spencer, J. T. Peery, E. T. Jones, J. E. Cobb, J. H. Carr, J. M. Binkley, W. G. Veal, J. Boring, O. P. Fitzgerald.	S. S. Roszel, D. S. Doggett, W. Kennedy, B. Craven, A. M. Shipp, A. T. Mann, J. Anderson, B. B. Ross, K. K. Hargrove, W. E. M. Linfield, W. H. Watkins, J. Moss, J. B. West, E. E. Wiley, L. D. Huston, W. H. Anderson, W. M. Rush, W. M. Prottzman, J. M. P. Hickerson, J. E. Cobb, J. Harrell, J. W. P. McKenzie, T. Stamford, J. Boring, W. R. Gober.	S. Register, N. Head, S. Hargiss, L. S. Burkhead, H. A. C. Walker, J. E. Evans, J. Anderson, H. N. McTyeire, W. M. Wightman, R. J. Harp, J. G. Jones, G. Jones, W. Burr, J. M. McTeer, J. Rand, J. H. Linn, C. I. Vandeventer, F. A. Morris, J. M. Steele, W. P. Ratcliffe, J. H. Carr, W. H. Hughes, I. G. John, J. W. De Vilbiss, O. P. Fitzgerald.

The Rev Jacob Ditzler, Fraternal Messenger of the Christian Union Church of Illinois, was introduced, and addressed the Conference on the objects of his mission, to wit: to see what may be done to effect a union between that Connection and the M. E. Church, South.

On motion of P. M. Pinckard,

Resolved, That we receive Brother Ditzler as a Fraternal Messenger of the Christian Union.

Resolved, That a Committee of nine be appointed on Correspondence with other Churches.

Resolved, That any communication which Brother Ditzler may have for the Conference, shall be referred to said committee.

On motion of J. B. McFerrin, the session was prolonged two hours.

E. W. Schon, Missionary Secretary, presented and read the Report of the Missionary Society, which was referred to the Committee on Missions.

The chair then called for reports, petitions, memorials, and appeals.

The list of Conferences was then called, and responded to as follows.—

MONTGOMERY CONFERENCE.—B. B. Ross presented a memorial from Tuskegee Station on Changes of the Economy of the Church, which was read.

The Bishop announced the following Committees, to wit:—

On Correspondence with other Churches,—J. H. Linn, P. M. Pinckard, R. A. Young, E. H. Myers, W. M. Prottzman, J. B. McFerrin, D. S. Doggett, Robert Hiner, C. F. Deems.

On the Circulation of the Holy Scriptures.—J. E. Evans, N. H. Lee, Jos. Anderson, B. B. Ross, J. B. Smith, A. H. Mitchell, D. S. Doggett.

E. H. Myers offered a resolution calling for the appointment of a Committee on Changes of Economy.

W. M. Rush moved as a substitute, that so much of the memorial as relates to the Episcopacy, be referred to the Committee on Episcopacy; pending the discussion of which, Conference adjourned with the benediction by the Bishop.

Friday Morning, April 6, 1866.

Conference met at the stated hour, Bishop Kavanaugh in the chair. Religious services were conducted by Wm. A. Smith.

The Minutes were read, corrected, and approved.

Bishop Paine took the chair.

The following delegates presented their vouchers of election, and took their seats accordingly:—

BALTIMORE CONFERENCE.—Samuel Register, John S. Martin, El-

dridge R. Veitch, Stephen Samuel Roszel, and Wm. G. Eggleston. These delegates, together with Norval Wilson, who appeared on the first day's session, were presented to the chair, with a short address, by Bishop Early. They were appropriately introduced by the chair—whereupon Norval Wilson, on the part of the delegation, made an impressive response, recognizing and reciprocating the cordial feeling manifested toward them. D. S. Doggett and C. F. Deems followed in brief, pertinent addresses, and the offering of the following resolution, which was adopted by a standing vote :—

Resolved by the General Conference of the M. E. Church, South, in Conference assembled, That we fully approve of the action of Bishop Early in admitting the Baltimore Annual Conference into the fellowship of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South; and that we cordially receive and recognize the delegates elect from that Conference as members of the General Conference of said Church, now in session in the city of New Orleans.

KENTUCKY CONFERENCE.—Robert Hiner, Joseph Rand, Elkanah Johnson.

LOUISVILLE CONFERENCE.—Albert H. Redford.

MONTGOMERY CONFERENCE.—Holland N. McTyeire.

MOBILE CONFERENCE.—Robert K. Hargrove.

RIO GRANDE CONFERENCE.—John W. De Vilbiss.

PACIFIC CONFERENCE.—Wm. R. Gober.

The Rev. Dr. Thos. B. Sargent, late of the East Baltimore Conference, and the Rev. John Poisal, now of the Baltimore Conference, were introduced. These brethren made some felicitous remarks, and on motion of A. H. Mitchell, were invited to take seats within the bar.

The Bishops' Address was then read by James A. Duncan, and on motion of S. Watson, was ordered to be published. It is as follows :—

ADDRESS OF THE BISHOPS.

DEAR BRETHREN :—We hail with feelings of devout gratitude the opening of another session of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Circumstances connected with the late unhappy war have prevented us from an earlier meeting; and now that we are permitted by Divine Providence to assemble, the important interests that will engage our attention demand that, with all sobriety and prayerfulness, we address ourselves to their consideration.

We have to review the operations of the Church for eight years—embracing a period during which important and startling events have crowded on each other in rapid succession. When the last General Con-

ference closed, we anticipated an earlier reunion, in this city; but the well-known condition of things, at the time appointed in regular order for our meeting, precluded our convening here. And ever since, until within the last few months, it has been deemed impracticable to call the Conference together. When it was definitely decided that the Conference could not meet at the proper time and place, there being no law in the Discipline authorizing the Bishops to convene the General Conference, and the state of the country also being such as to render it doubtful whether any considerable number of the preachers could be collected together for the purpose of holding such a session if called, the Bishops, feeling the importance of wise counsel in the emergency, published a card inviting a meeting of the Bishops, Book Committee, and others, to consult together on divers important subjects connected with the immediate interests of the Church. Such a meeting was held, first at Atlanta, Ga.; afterward at Macon, Ga.; and then at Montgomery, Ala. In August last the Bishops alone met for consultation at Columbus, Ga. These various meetings were seasons of interest and profit to those who attended them, and the results of our deliberations, as exhibited in the resolutions which we published, tended greatly, as we have reason to believe, to promote the peace and prosperity of the Church.

In order that the character of those meetings may be clearly appreciated, we would remind you that when they were called it was distinctly stated that all the acts of such meetings would be simply advisory. We disclaimed all authority to take any action that should be binding on the Church, only as it might be approved as wise and godly. We gave such advice as we judged best for the Church in her straitened circumstances. If the Annual Conferences approved it, then they acted in accordance with their own convictions; if not, then they simply took their own course in all matters that came before them, without reference to our advice. It is for the General Conference to decide whether we transcended our authority in convening such advisory councils.

Early during the war the Bishops had to confine their Episcopal visitations to the territory east of the Mississippi River. This we deeply regretted, but in our circumstances it was unavoidable. The consequence was that the Conferences west of the Mississippi were deprived of Episcopal supervision during nearly the whole period of the war. We would not, however, fail to mention in this connection, that Bishop Kavanaugh, residing as he did within the Federal lines, was able to visit the Missouri, the St. Louis, and the two Kentucky Conferences, and was also able to extend his visitations to the California work. The rest of the Bishops were able to extend their labors to various parts of the work within the

Confederate lines. Notwithstanding the fact that our episcopal supervision of the work has been necessarily partial, we are gratified to believe that the preachers have been faithful generally to the interest of the Church of God. With but very few exceptions, the Annual Conferences have been regularly held. The Presiding Elders and Preachers have filled their appointments as of old; and, with humble gratitude to God, we mention the fact that, during the trying years through which we have passed, gracious revivals of religion among our people have attested how the Divine presence has been with us.

We do not attempt in this brief address to enter into a detailed account of the general state of the work. Thank God that we have so safely passed through a most painful and fiery ordeal; that the Church has preserved under His blessing her integrity; that she has in nowise become complicated with political affairs; but keeping in view her own high mission, has been satisfied to perform her legitimate duties.

It is proper to state to you that we found it, in our judgment, needful to the interest of the work to depart in some respects from the strict letter of the law of the Church in our episcopal administration. Extraordinary exigencies required us to take this responsibility. In the journals of the Annual Conferences which will come before you the particular instances in which we have judged it best to assume this grave responsibility will appear. In all such instances we wish it understood that we do not regard such departure from the law as establishing precedents for future guidance, but only as illustrating how extraordinary exigencies may make it necessary to transcend the provisions of even the most wholesome human regulations. From this experience, however, the General Conference may find suggestions that are valuable to guide it in providing as far as practicable for contingencies in the future.

It would have been gratifying to us if we had been able to bear the expense of more extensive travel through the work; but in the impoverished state of the Church, and especially in the absence of any provision for more than a bare support of the Bishops, this was impossible. This fact, we hope, will be suggestive to your body.

In August last, we deemed it prudent to issue a "Pastoral Address to the Preachers and Members of the Church," reminding them of their duty as Christian citizens, and giving such advice as seemed to us appropriate to the peculiar circumstances of the times. As that Address has been extensively published, we deem its formal transmission to you with this communication unnecessary, and will only ask your attention to such parts of it as we may find it proper to recapitulate on particular points at this time.

The publishing interests of the Church suffered greatly in consequence of the war. The Book Concern will require your careful consideration, and some important changes in your plan of operations may be needful for its future efficiency: of this, however, you will be better prepared to judge when you have heard the report of the Agent. With pleasure we have welcomed the revival of our Church papers, and while we regard them as in a high degree creditable to the Church, we would respectfully submit whether it would not be best to unite Conferences in the publication of a fewer number, in order that they may be better supported and still further improved.

Our missionary work, once the glory of our Church, has been well-nigh ruined. The China mission still lives, and needs your fostering care. Although the financial condition of the country at present forbids the expectation of large collections, yet we may make prospective arrangements for doing a great work in that extensive field.

The interest of the colored population should engage your serious attention. Heretofore the colored people within our bounds have deserved and received a large share of our labors. We have expended our means and strength liberally and patiently for many years for their salvation and improvement, and if in anywise our conduct has not been appreciated by some on earth, nevertheless, our witness is with God, and our record on high. It is grateful to our own feelings to know that if the colored people do not remain under our pastoral care, their departure reflects no discredit upon our labors in their behalf, and is necessitated by no indifference on our part to their welfare. Many of them will probably unite with the African M. E. Church, some of them with the Northern Methodist Church, while others, notwithstanding extraneous influences and unkind misrepresentations of our Church, will remain with us.

Let us be content to leave to Providence to vindicate in due time our scriptural relation to the interest of the colored people. For those who remain with us the Church should provide generously every thing important to their religious culture. Convinced that your body takes the deepest interest in this subject, and will give it your special attention, we deem it only needful to speak of it in this general and suggestive form; and especially as the Bishops in their Pastoral Address last August brought the subject prominently to the notice of our people.

In respect to the separate and distinct organization of our Church, no reasons have appeared to altar our views, as expressed in August last. No proposal of fraternal relations has come to us from others, neither do we regard ourselves as in anywise responsible for hostility evinced towards us. While the attempt to take forcible possession of our property and to

disintegrate our Church, declare the mind that would destroy us, let it be ours to show the mind that was in Christ. In our conscious integrity we should calmly await the inevitable hour when, in the providence of God, an enlightened public opinion will vindicate our claims as a Church of God and a true type of Methodism. Let us not be impatient for our vindication before the world. The great future is before us, and the great Head of the Church smiles upon us. Our fidelity to God will most perfectly reply to the voice of defamation.

In this connection, it is with pleasure that we refer to the fact that many Christians in the North, and especially in the North-west, sincerely sympathize with us, and this sympathy, we have reason to believe, is daily assuming a more tangible and impressive form. That there have, at the same time, been some defections in the Church, we care not to disguise. A very few of the whites have gone from us. This was perhaps to have been expected. Our regret is rather for them than for ourselves. But while we speak of small defections, we may refer also to most gratifying accessions. The Baltimore Annual Conference is now represented by a delegation in this body. In February last, Bishop Early formally received into our ecclesiastical connection this Conference, consisting of one hundred and four ministers and a membership of twelve thousand.

It is a grateful duty to welcome these brethren among us, and to commend them to the confidence and affection of our people. This is a large accession to our members and territory. It is also a testimony in our favor that is nobly borne by men whose former position and long deliberation upon the subject, as well as their known intelligence, will entitle it to special respect. In our hearts we welcome them, and cordially extend to them the right hand of fellowship.

As a fact of interest to us and of promise to our future influence, we may state, that in the city of Baltimore there have been organized several flourishing churches upon an independent basis, composed of Methodists whose warm sympathies are with us, and whose liberal kindness has already contributed largely to aid us in our time of need, laying us under obligations by their love and good works.

Our Educational interests have been greatly damaged by the war, and nearly all of our male institutions have been closed. Providentially many of our female institutions have been kept in operation, and are still dispensing the blessings of sanctified education to the daughters of our land. Every thing in our power should be done to revive, as speedily as possible, the male institutions under the patronage of our Church.

In this connection we specially bring to your attention the importance of an institute for the proper training of young preachers. That we

should make some proper arrangements for the more thorough training of our young men before they are received into the Conferences and sent forth to minister in the Church of Christ, appears to us to be so obvious as to need no argument to prove it. It behooves us to take this matter into serious and immediate consideration, and secure to the Church the invaluable advantages the provision we suggest can only supply.

The instruction of the children under our care and the interests of our Sabbath-school system cannot be too highly appreciated by you. Your body will, we hope, show your love for these little ones of Christ and lambs of his flock by the practical value of your action in their behalf. We think it unnecessary to enlarge on a point of such obvious and vital concern to the Church. Let us remember that it is only by taking care of the children that we can take care of the future prosperity of the Church.

If we are to judge from the tone of the religious press, and the action of many of our Conferences, great concern is felt in respect to certain changes in our economy. It is obviously unbecoming in us as Bishops to occupy any other than an impartial relation to those matters. But we take this occasion to urge upon you the importance of giving these subjects your sober and prayerful consideration. From our extensive observation of the state and wants of the Church, we hesitate not to say that some improvement of our economy may be wisely undertaken at this time. Well for us if we can happily avoid extremes and do neither too little nor too much. Let us remember that while innovations are not necessarily improvements, wisdom may demand in the department of ecclesiastical expediency new applications and developments of fundamental principles. The efficiency of Methodism finds its first condition in the prevalence of deep spiritual life; and alterations in our economy are valuable as they coincide with this condition, calamitous when they ignore it. On only one of the points suggested do we regard it becoming in our position to speak directly, and that is in respect to the increase of the number of the Bishops. For such an increase as will give the Church a more efficient episcopacy, we think there is an urgent necessity. The infirmities of age press heavily upon some of us, and diminish our ability to answer to the demands of the work for general episcopal visitation. The great and increasing extent of our territory should be considered. We should by all means have a Bishop, for obvious reasons, residing on the Pacific coast. And while we do not recommend a Bishop for every State or Conference, we are fully persuaded that the number of Bishops should be so increased as to enable them to be pastors of the people as well as chairmen of Conferences and pastors of the preachers. If we would carry out the

invaluable plan of our itinerant general superintendency, we must have an addition of a number of vigorous, active, and pious men to your present college of Bishops.

And now, dear brethren, in conclusion, allow us affectionately to remind you of the solemn responsibility that rests upon you as delegates representing the affairs of our beloved Zion. We have only suggested in outline some of the work before you. It is your province to go fully and thoroughly into the particular consideration of the subjects within your jurisdiction, avoiding all partizan feeling, discharging from our minds all prejudices that would cloud our judgments, rising above all private and selfish impulses, humbly invoking that wisdom that is from above, which is pure, and peaceable, and gentle; in honor preferring one another; in brotherly kindness and charity, and with an eye single to the glory of God. Let us endeavor to do our duty here as ministers of the Lord Jesus Christ, praying God that we may have grace to edify the Church, that we may rejoice that we have not labored in vain in the Lord.

JAMES O. ANDREW,

ROBERT PAINE,

JOHN EARLY,

HUBBARD H. KAVANAUGH.

[Bishops Soule and Pierce not being present, their names are not appended to the Address.]

The Rev. F. C. Tebbs, of the Baltimore Conference, was introduced to the Conference.

On motion of Levi Pearce, the various subjects brought to notice in the Bishops' Address were referred to the several appropriate committees.

The Rev. Dr. Palmer, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in New Orleans, was introduced and invited to take a seat within the bar.

On motion of C. F. Deems, E. H. Myers, of the Georgia Conference, and J. S. Martin, of the Baltimore Conference, were appointed Assistant Secretaries.

J. B. McFerrin, the Book Agent, presented a Report, which was read, referred to the Committee on Books and Periodicals, and ordered to be printed.

On motion of A. H. Mitchell, the session was indefinitely prolonged.

The Rev. R. Abbey, Financial Secretary, presented a Report, which, on motion of P. M. Pinckard, was referred to the Committee on Books, etc.

On motion of J. B. McFerrin, the Report of the Missionary Secretary, presented yesterday, was ordered to be published.

The Committee of Publication presented the following Report, which was adopted:—

The Committee appointed upon the Publication of the General Conference "Daily" respectfully present the following Report. They recommend—

1. That the "Daily" be published at the office of the New Orleans Christian Advocate, as proposed by the Publishing Committee of that paper.

2. That a stenographic report be made of the proceedings of the Conference.

3. That to defray the expenses of the publication, the members of the Conference be requested to subscribe for two copies each of the Daily, and that the cost of the reporting be defrayed by the Branch of the Publishing House in this city.

J. C. KEENER,
E. H. MYERS,
J. B. McFERRIN.

April 4, 1866.

The following members of the Standing Committees were reported :

BALTIMORE CONFERENCE.—Episcopacy, S. Register; Itinerancy, N. Wilson; Books, etc., W. G. Eggleston; Boundaries, E. R. Veitch; Missions, S. S. Roszel; Revisal, J. S. Martin; Sunday-schools, W. G. Eggleston; Education, S. S. Roszel; Colored People, S. Register.

KENTUCKY CONFERENCE.—Episcopacy, R. Hiner; Itinerancy, E. Johnson; Books, etc., R. Hiner; Boundaries, Jos. Rand; Missions, E. Johnson; Revisal, L. D. Huston; Sunday-schools, J. Rand; Education, L. D. Huston; Colored People, J. Rand.

PACIFIC CONFERENCE.—Episcopacy, O. P. Fitzgerald; Itinerancy, W. R. Gober; Books, etc., W. R. Gober; Boundaries, O. P. Fitzgerald; Missions, O. P. Fitzgerald; Revisal, W. R. Gober; Sunday-schools, O. P. Fitzgerald; Education, W. R. Gober; Colored People, O. P. Fitzgerald.

The Chairman of the several Standing Committees were announced, as follows :—

Episcopacy—W. M. Wightman.

Itinerancy—L. M. Lee.

Books and Periodicals—D. R. McAnally.

Boundaries—Jefferson Hamilton.

Missions—L. Rosser.

Revisal—T. O. Summers.

Sunday-schools—J. E. Edwards.

Education—D. S. Doggett.

Colored People—J. E. Evans.

On motion of W. M. Wightman, Conference adjourned with the benediction by the Bishop.

Saturday, April 7, 1866.

Conference met at the stated hour, Bishop Paine in the chair. Religious services were conducted by J. G. Jones.

On motion, the call of the roll was dispensed with.

Bishop Andrew took the chair.

The Minutes of yesterday were read and approved.

J. W. Mills, of the Florida Conference, presented his voucher and took his seat.

Reports were then called for by the chair.

L. M. Lee, Chairman of the Committee on Itinerancy, presented Report No. 1, which was adopted, as follows:—

The Committee on Itinerancy beg leave to submit the following as their Report No. 1:—

Resolved, That the Committee on Itinerancy report that, though the division of the Alabama Conference was irregular, we approve of its division into what are now known as the Mobile and Montgomery Conferences—the circumstances justifying the separation.

L. M. LEE, Chairman.

Petitions and Memorials were then called for.

MONTGOMERY CONFERENCE.—The memorial from Tuskegee, presented on Thursday, was called up. On the question of its reference, the substitute of W. M. Rush was taken up, and, on motion of R. Alexander, it was laid on the table.

The original of E. H. Myers was then adopted, by a vote of 67 to 61, as follows:—

Resolved, That a Special Committee, consisting of one member from each Conference, to be selected by the several delegations, be appointed, to whom shall be referred all petitions and other papers submitted to the Conference, having reference to changes in the polity of our Church, which committee shall be known as the Committee on Changes of Economy.

The memorial from Tuskegee was referred to said committee.

MOBILE CONFERENCE.—A memorial from St. Francis Street Church, Mobile, on Restoration of Wesley's Sunday Service, was presented, read, and referred to the Committee on Revisal.

ALABAMA CONFERENCE.—A memorial from that Conference, December, 1863, on the Trial of Ministers, was presented, read, and referred to the Committee on Revisal.

Also, a memorial from the Quarterly Conference of Eufaula, on Extension of Pastorate, forwarded by the Alabama Conference (1861), was read and referred to the Committee on Changes of Economy.

Also, memorials from Montgomery, Ala., and Columbus, Miss., on changes in Discipline, referred by the Alabama Conference (1861) to this body. Referred to the Committee on Changes of Economy.

LOUISIANA CONFERENCE.—A memorial on Changes of Economy was presented, read, and referred to that committee.

MISSISSIPPI CONFERENCE.—A report on the Van Houten Bequest was presented, read, and referred to the Committee on Books and Periodicals.

Memorials from the Mississippi Conference, requesting the appointment of a "Committee on Character," and a Form for Reception of Members, were presented, read, and referred to the Committee on Changes of Economy.

Also, a memorial on the Boundary between the Mobile and Mississippi Conferences, was presented, read, and referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

Also, a memorial from the Quarterly Conference of Woodville, Miss., in reference to Expulsion of Members, was presented, read, and referred to the Committee on Changes of Economy.

TENNESSEE CONFERENCE.—A memorial presented to that body by A. L. P. Green, and referred by it to this Conference, calling for Changes in the Discipline, and a counter memorial from the Columbia District, were presented, read, and referred to the Committee on Changes of Economy.

KENTUCKY CONFERENCE.—A memorial of the Conference asking an Extension of the Pastorate and Lay Delegation, was presented, read, and referred to the Committee on Changes of Economy.

Bishop Kavanaugh presented a memorial from the Colored People of Lexington, asking for possession of certain Church property; and one from colored members of our Church in Harrodsburg, Ky., asking that their Church relations may be more clearly defined; which were read and referred to the Committee on the Religious Interest of the Colored People.

LOUISVILLE CONFERENCE.—A memorial from Louisville Conference was presented, read, and a portion relating to Church Certificates referred to the Committee on Changes of Economy; and another portion relating to the Centenary of American Methodism, was referred to a committee that was ordered on that subject, to consist of nine members.

Also, a memorial from Logan Circuit, deprecating changes in Economy, was presented, read, and referred to the committee on that subject.

KANSAS MISSION CONFERENCE.—A memorial from members of that Conference, asking to be united to the St. Louis and Missouri Conferences, was presented, read, and referred to the Committee on Boundaries; and a part relating to a change in the name of the Church, to the Committee on Changes of Economy.

MISSOURI CONFERENCE.—A memorial from this Conference, asking that a Rule be inserted in the Discipline prohibiting political preaching, was presented, read, and referred to the Committee on Revisal.

The session was indefinitely extended. Bishop Kavanaugh took the chair.

RIO GRANDE CONFERENCE.—A memorial from said Conference, requesting change of its boundaries and name, was presented, read, and referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

A memorial of German Ministers and Members of the Rio Grande and Texas Conferences, was presented, read, and a part relating to Boundaries was referred to the committee on that subject; a part relating to German Literature, was referred to the Committee on Books, etc.; and a portion on Education, to the committee on that subject.

PACIFIC CONFERENCE.—A memorial from that body, requesting the formation of a new Conference in Oregon, etc., was presented, read, and referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

On a motion of A. Monroe, it was ordered that a foot-note be appended to the Bishops' Address, stating the absence of Bishops Soule and Pierce, as the reason of the omission of their names in said Address.

A communication from the Mississippi Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, favoring a union of the M. E. Church, South, and the Methodist Protestant Church, under certain conditions, was presented, read, and referred to the Committee on Correspondence with other Churches.

R. Abbey, Financial Secretary, presented another Report, which was read and referred to the Committee on Books, etc.

The Report of Commissioners appointed by a Convention held in Louisville, relating to the Publishing House, was presented and referred to the Committee on Books, etc.

A resolution of the Missionary Board, requesting a revision of the Constitution of the Missionary Society, was presented, read, and referred to the Committee on Missions.

The members of the Standing Committees for Rio Grande Conference were reported, as follows:—Episcopacy, Books, etc., Missions, Revisal,

Education, J. Boring; Itinerancy, Boundaries, Sunday-schools, Colored People, J. W. De Vilbiss.

The Secretary stated that he had received a telegraphic dispatch, dated April 5, 1866, from the Secretary of the New York East Conference, which was read, as follows:—

*To the Secretary of the General Conference:—*I respectfully forward the following: Whereas, the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, is now in session in the City of New Orleans; therefore,

Resolved, That we, the New York East Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, hereby present to that venerable representative body our Christian salutation, and cordially invite them together with us to make next Sabbath, April 8, 1866, a day of spiritual [special] prayer, both in private and in the public congregations, for the peace and unity of heart of our common country, and for the full restoration of Christian sympathy and love between the Churches, especially between the different branches of Methodists within this nation; and upon reception of an acceptable affirmative reply, the concert of prayer will be considered by this Conference as adopted.

Resolved, That the Secretary of this Conference be requested to forthwith transmit by telegraph a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, at New Orleans.

GEO. W. WOODRUFF, Secretary.

This communication was received with great interest, and after some discussion, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted by a standing vote:—

WHEREAS, A telegram has been received from the Secretary of the New York East Annual Conference, now in session at Brooklyn, N. Y., addressed to the Secretary of this General Conference, respectfully inviting this body to unite with the Conference aforesaid, on to-morrow, Sunday, April 8, in prayer to God for the restoration of Christian sympathy and love between the Churches, and especially between the different branches of Methodists in this country; therefore,

Resolved, 1. That the General Conference of the M. E. Church, South, always ready to entertain with Christian courtesy any proposals looking to the cultivation of kind and brotherly relations with other branches of the common Methodism of the country, do hereby cordially agree to unite, on to-morrow, with the New York East Annual Conference, in special and solemn prayer, in private and in the public congregations, for the very desirable objects specified in the fraternal message of that Conference.

Resolved, 2. That the foregoing resolution be forthwith telegraphed by the Secretary of the General Conference to the Secretary of the New York East Annual Conference.

W. M. WIGHTMAN,
J. HAMILTON.

The Conference then adjourned with the benediction by the Bishop.

Monday Morning, April 9, 1866.

Conference met, Bishop Andrew in the chair. Religious services were conducted by J. W. P. McKenzie.

The Minutes of Saturday were read and approved.

Bishop Pierce, and his venerable father, Lovick Pierce, Delegate of the Georgia Conference, who had been detained by affliction, appeared and took their seats.

A. Means, Reserve Delegate from Georgia Conference, was introduced.

Bishop Andrew addressed the Conference on maintaining the spirit of brotherly love, and of conducting all discussions in a calm, Christian temper. Speaking of the changes proposed, the Bishop begged the brethren not to condemn beforehand all who propose changes as enemies of Methodism, but to listen to their arguments—they, perhaps, being as good friends of the Church as others who oppose them.

Bishop Pierce took the chair.

On a call of the Conferences for Memorials, Petitions, etc., the following were presented:—

VIRGINIA CONFERENCE.—A memorial comprising resolutions of that Conference respecting Changes of Economy and on the religious interests of the colored people, was received, read, and referred to the committees on those subjects.

Also, memorials respecting the boundaries between the Virginia and Baltimore Conferences, were presented, read, and referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE.—A memorial from the Quarterly Conference of Duplin Circuit, on Changes of Economy, was presented, read, and referred to the committee on that subject.

SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE.—Memorials from that Conference asking Changes of Economy; also, from said Conference in 1861, and the official members in Charleston, asking the exemption of Charleston from the restrictive rule in regard to the stationing of preachers, were presented, read, and referred to the Committee on Changes of Economy.

Also, a memorial of said Conference on the Publication of Books, was presented, read, and referred to the Committee on Books, etc.

W. Smith, A. M. Shipp, and W. A. Fleming, presented a paper on changes in the organization of Quarterly Conferences, which was read and referred to the Committee on Revisal.

J. Stacy and H. A. C. Walker presented a resolution respecting the Restrictive Rule, which was referred to the Committee on Changes of Economy.

GEORGIA CONFERENCE.—A memorial from said Conference respecting the boundaries between the Georgia and Florida Conferences, was presented, read, and referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

J. S. Key and W. H. Potter presented resolutions referring to Monthly Church Conferences, and a permanent Statistical Secretary in each Annual Conference, which were read and referred to the Committee on Changes of Economy.

MOBILE CONFERENCE.—The Secretary presented a memorial from said Conference respecting Changes of Economy, which was read and referred to the Committee on Changes of Economy.

MEMPHIS CONFERENCE.—Samuel Watson presented the Report of the Memphis and Arkansas Christian Advocate, which was referred to the Committee on Books, etc.

MISSISSIPPI CONFERENCE.—W. Harrington and C. K. Marshall presented a resolution on Sunday-schools, which was read and referred to the Committee on Sunday-schools; also, one on Missions, which was referred to the Committee on Missions.

C. K. Marshall and L. Pearce presented a resolution on licensing Local Preachers, which was read and referred to the Committee on Revisal.

J. G. Jones and W. H. Watkins presented a resolution respecting Delegates to the General Conference, which was read and referred to the Committee on Revisal.

H. H. Montgomery and J. MacLennan presented resolutions on Changes of Economy, which were read and referred to the committee on that subject; and another resolution, which was referred to the Committee on Revisal.

Appeals were called for by Conferences, but none were presented.

The Committee on Changes of Economy was announced as follows:—

Baltimore, E. R. Veitch; Virginia, J. C. Granberry; Western Virginia, S. Hargiss; North Carolina, B. Craven; South Carolina, H. A. C. Walker; Georgia, E. H. Myers; Florida, Josephus Anderson; Montgomery, W. A. McCarty; Mobile, J. Hamilton; Louisiana, L. Parker; Mississippi, C. K. Marshall; Memphis, W. C. Johnson; Tennessee, S. D. Baldwin; Holston, E. E. Wiley; Louisville, N. H. Lee; Kentucky,

R. Hiner; St. Louis, D. R. McAnally; Missouri, W. M. Rush; Arkansas, J. M. P. Hickerson; Wachita, A. R. Wingfield; Indian Mission, John Harrall; East Texas, J. C. Tullis; Texas, R. Alexander; Rio Grande, J. Boring; Pacific, W. R. Gober.

W. R. Branham was announced as appointed on the Committee on Revisal, in place of E. H. Myers, released.

W. W. Bennett and A. R. Wingfield offered resolutions respecting the Ordination of Local Preachers, which were read and referred to the Committee on Revisal.

A. M. Shipp and H. A. C. Walker offered ■ resolution respecting the course of study, etc., of Local Preachers, which was read and referred to the Committee on Revisal.

A. M. Shipp and C. Betts offered a resolution authorizing the Bishops to change the place of holding the General Conference in certain contingencies, which was read and referred to the Committee on Revisal.

Wm. A. Smith offered ■ resolution relating to the Bishops' veto.

Jas. A. Cobb offered a substitute. Pending the discussion of this subject, the hour of adjournment having arrived, the Conference adjourned with the benediction by the Bishop.

Tuesday Morning, April 10, 1866.

Conference met at the stated hour, Bishop Pierce in the chair. Religious services were conducted by A. Means.

The Minutes were read and approved.

Bishop Early took the chair.

Andrew Hunter presented his voucher of election by the Wachita Conference, and took his seat accordingly.

E. H. Myers was announced as chairman of the Committee on Changes of Economy.

A memorial from the Louisiana Conference, on voting in Quarterly Conferences, that had been referred to the Committee on Changes of Economy, was reported back to the Conference, and referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

On motion of C. F. Deems, so much of A. L. P. Green's memorial as relates to the salaries of preachers, which had been referred to the Committee on Revisal, was, upon reconsideration, referred to ■ Special Committee of Nine on the Support of the Ministry.

E. H. Myers, chairman of the Committee on Changes of Economy, reported back sundry papers, which had been referred to that committee, which, on reconsideration, were referred to the Committee on Revisal. They were as follows:—

- On statistical questions for Annual Conferences.
- On statistical secretaries in Annual Conferences.
- On stewards for each Society, etc.
- On examining character in Annual Conferences.
- On seating congregations.
- On expulsions from the Church.
- On requiring three-fourths vote for change of Boundaries.
- On defining certain words in Restrictive Rules 1 and 6.
- On members removing without certificates, and on giving cards to members.

Bishop Pierce having stated that by mistake the Georgia Conference elected only 12 Delegates, when it was entitled to 13, on motion of L. M. Lee, H. H. Parks was recognized as a Delegate, and Alexander Means (Reserve Delegate) was recognized as a Delegate in place of Wm. J. Parks, whose place had been previously filled by H. H. Parks.

The call was then made for Petitions and Memorials.

NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE.—N. H. D. Wilson and N. F. Reid presented a resolution favoring the publication of a Catechism on Doctrines and Economy, which was read and referred to the Committee on Sunday-schools.

Also, one on Extension of the Pastorate, which was referred to the Committee on Changes of Economy.

Also, one on Duties of Bishops, which was referred to the Committee on Episcopacy.

SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE.—Whitefoord Smith presented a petition of W. F. Parker in reference to his location without his consent, which was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

GEORGIA CONFERENCE.—J. W. Glenn and W. H. Potter presented a resolution on the Relation of Baptized Children to the Church, which was read and referred to the Committee on Revisal.

E. H. Myers presented a paper on statistical questions and a permanent Statistical Secretary in Annual Conferences, which was referred to the Committee on Revisal.

MISSISSIPPI CONFERENCE.—H. H. Montgomery and W. Harrington presented a resolution respecting Mission Conferences, which was referred to the Committee on Missions.

Also, resolutions favoring the admission of superannuated preachers and Trustees of Churches into Quarterly Conferences, and on Secretaries of Quarterly Conferences, which were read and referred to the Committee on Changes of Economy.

H. H. Montgomery and B. Jones presented three resolutions on lay

delegation in the General Conference, which were read and referred to the Committee on Changes of Economy.

MEMPHIS CONFERENCE.—W. C. Johnson presented printed documents of the American Bible Society, which were referred to the Committee on Circulation of the Holy Scriptures.

TENNESSEE CONFERENCE.—J. B. McFerrin presented a memorial, signed by himself and other members of this body, on the Phonetic system of printing, which was read and referred to the Committee on Education.

On motion of J. F. Hughes, a portion of the memorial of the Columbia District, relating to salaries of preachers, was reconsidered and referred to the Committee of Nine on the Support of the Ministry.

HOLSTON CONFERENCE.—E. E. Wiley presented a paper asking that the action of said Conference in certain cases be reversed, which was read and referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

J. Atkins presented a paper from W. F. Parker, of Holston Conference, which was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

MISSOURI CONFERENCE.—A. Monroe presented a memorial from the Rocheport Quarterly Conference, asking for an extension of Episcopal services west of the Mississippi, which was read and referred to the Committee on Episcopacy.

The call was then made for Appeals.

L. M. Lee presented the appeal of Geo. F. Doggett, of the Virginia Conference, and, on motion of H. H. Montgomery, the appeal was received, and, on motion of L. M. Lee, next Tuesday was appointed for the trial of said appeal, with closed doors.

C. K. Marshall presented and read his report, as Agent of the Church Evangelist, which, on motion of E. E. Wiley, was referred to the Committee on Books and Periodicals.

The question on which the Conference adjourned on yesterday, being the substitute of J. E. Cobb for the resolution of W. A. Smith, was then taken up.

During the discussion the time was extended.

J. E. Cobb withdrew his substitute, and W. P. Ratcliffe and J. E. Cobb offered as a substitute, a resolution instructing the Book Editor to expunge the proviso, on page 47 of the Discipline, as being in spirit, tenor, and effect, equivalent to a restrictive rule, and having not been inserted by a proper constitutional vote.

Pending the discussion of this question, the Conference adjourned with the benediction by the Bishop.

Wednesday Morning, April 11, 1866.

Conference met at the stated hour, Bishop Early in the chair. Religious services were conducted by E. W. Sehon.

The Minutes were read and approved.

The Bishop announced the Committee on Support of the Ministry as follows:—

W. A. Smith, John C. Keener, Robert A. Young, Robert S. Moran, Charles Betts, Wm. H. Anderson, Joseph S. Key, Samuel Register and Samuel Watson.

On Centenary of American Methodism:—

T. O. Summers, H. A. C. Walker, E. R. Veitch, Wm. C. Johnson, P. A. Peterson, D. R. McAnally, W. H. Potter, Robert Alexander and O. P. Fitzgerald.

N. F. Reid was granted leave of absence for a time, on account of ill-health, and B. Craven to accompany him.

C. F. Deems was announced as supplying the place of N. F. Reid in the Committee on Episcopacy; and R. S. Moran the place of B. Craven in the Committee on Education; and N. H. D. Wilson in the Committee on Changes of Economy, in place of B. Craven.

J. W. De Vilbiss was granted leave of absence for the remainder of the session, on account of the exposure of his family on the Texas frontier.

Guilford Jones presented his voucher of election by the Memphis Conference, and took his seat accordingly. Joseph H. Brooks, who had been serving as his substitute, was recognized as a Delegate in the place of T. L. Boswell.

Jesse Boring, of the Rio Grande Conference, presented his voucher of election, and took his seat.

Thomas O. Summers, chairman of the Committee on Revisal, presented Report No. 1 of that committee, which was read and laid on the table, according to rule.

E. H. Myers, chairman of Committee on Changes of Economy, presented Report No. 1 of that committee, which, on motion of W. W. Bennett, was made the order of the day for to-morrow, and was ordered to be published in the Daily Christian Advocate.

J. Hamilton, chairman of Committee on Boundaries, presented Reports Nos. 1 and 2 of that committee, which were read and laid on the table, according to rule.

The call was then made for Petitions and Memorials.

BALTIMORE CONFERENCE.—S. Register and W. G. Eggleston presented

resolutions on Infant Membership and Sunday-schools, which were read and referred to a Special Committee of Nine.

NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE.—Resolutions of the Quarterly Conference of Whitesville Circuit, on probation, class-meetings, extension of pastorate, etc., were presented, read, and referred to the Committee on Changes of Economy.

W. H. Bobbitt and L. S. Burkhead presented a resolution on Local Preachers, which was read and referred to the Committee on Revisal.

B. Craven presented resolutions on changing Circuits, seating congregations, and free seats, which were read and referred to the Committee on Revisal.

GEORGIA CONFERENCE.—L. Pierce presented papers respecting Changes of Economy, which were referred to the committee on that subject.

MOBILE CONFERENCE.—J. Hamilton presented a paper on the Constitution of the M. E. Church, by E. W. Chatfield, which was referred to the Committee on Changes of Economy.

J. Hamilton and A. H. Mitchell presented a resolution on sitting in Annual Conferences with closed doors, which was read and referred to the Committee on Revisal.

The Secretary presented a Memorial of the Trustees and Faculty of the Southern University, which was read and referred to the Committee on Education.

KENTUCKY CONFERENCE.—J. Rand and R. Hiner presented a resolution on the extension of the boundaries of the Kentucky Conference which was read and referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

LOUISVILLE CONFERENCE.—A. H. Redford and J. H. Linn presented a resolution on extension of the boundaries of the Louisville Conference, which was read and referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

J. H. Linn presented papers on the Publishing House, which were referred to the Committee on Books, etc.

MISSOURI CONFERENCE.—W. M. Rush and C. J. Vandeventer presented a resolution on the reception of members, which was read and referred to the Committee on Revisal.

ARKANSAS CONFERENCE.—J. M. P. Hickerson and J. Steele presented a resolution on the boundaries of the Arkansas and Wachita Conferences, which was read and referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

TEXAS CONFERENCE.—R. Alexander presented a resolution on the boundaries of that Conference, which was read and referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

S. H. Browne presented a paper on the support of the ministry, which was referred to the committee on that subject.

On motion, the following resolutions were then offered, read, and adopted:—

Resolved, That the Committee on Revisal be instructed to inquire into the propriety of striking from the Discipline Section 1, 2 of Chapter 1, Part 1, of Discipline.

C. F. DEEMS,

A. M. SHIPP.

Resolved, That the Committee on Revisal be, and they are hereby, instructed to consider the propriety of printing in the Book of Discipline a brief and properly digested Catechism for the use of the families of the M. E. Church, South.

W. M. WIGHTMAN,

L. M. LEE.

Resolved, That two or more of our Bishops be requested to wait upon the President of the United States and tender him appropriate expressions of gratitude for the restoration of our Church property, and to further assure him that we, as a body of ministers of Christ, enjoin on our congregations submission to "the powers that be;" and that, while we stand aloof from all party politics and deprecate any intermeddling of churches or ministers, *as such*, with political affairs, we yet feel it to be our duty cheerfully to comply with the apostolic injunction to make "supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings for all men—for all in authority, that we may lead quiet and peaceable lives in all godliness and honesty."

J. B. McFERRIN,

S. D. BALDWIN.

A motion of L. M. Lee to lay this last resolution on the table for the present was lost.

On motion of S. P. Richardson, the question was taken without debate. A motion to adjourn having been lost, the resolution was then adopted.

R. S. Moran offered resolutions on changes of Discipline, which were laid on the table, according to rule.

Bishop Paine announced the Committee on Infant Church Membership, as follows:—

Special Committee on Infant Church Membership:—S. Register, J. Hamilton, J. W. Glenn, J. B. Cottrell, H. A. C. Walker, J. E. Edwards, H. H. Montgomery, S. P. Richardson and Thomas Maddin.

On motion of W. M. Wightman, the Conference resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole, Bishop Kavanaugh in the chair.

After sitting for some time, the committee rose, reported progress, and asked permission to sit again on to-morrow, which was granted. The Conference then adjourned with the benediction by Bishop Paine.

Thursday Morning, April 12, 1866.

Conference met at the stated hour. Bishop Kavanaugh in the chair. Religious services were conducted by Cornelius J. Vandeventer.

The Minutes were read, corrected, and approved.

Bishop Paine took the chair.

Thomas L. Boswell produced his voucher of election by the Memphis Conference, and took his seat, which had been filled by Joseph H. Brooks, Reserve.

Wellborn Mooney produced his voucher of election by the Tennessee Conference, and took his seat, which had been filled by Ferdinand S. Petway, Reserve, who now was announced as filling the seat of S. D. Baldwin.

The call was then made for Reports of Committees.

Thomas O. Summers, chairman of the Committee on Revisal, presented Report No. 2 of that committee, which was read and laid on the table, according to rule.

E. H. Myers, chairman of the Committee on Changes of Economy, reported back certain papers presented yesterday by Lovick Pierce on Circuits, etc., which were referred to the Committee on Itinerancy—a paper on the Children of the Church, which was referred to the Committee on Infant Church Membership—another on Collections, which was referred to the Committee on Revisal—and one on the Duties of Stewards, which was referred to the Committee on the Support of the Ministry.

J. E. Evans, chairman of the Committee on the Circulation of the Holy Scriptures, presented a Report of that committee, which was read, and the resolutions embodied in it were adopted.

On motion of N. H. Lee, the preamble was recommitted, with instructions to the committee to so alter it, as to show our unwillingness to contribute our money to the publication of speeches and resolutions injurious to the people and character of the South.

Petitions, Memorials, and Appeals were then called for, but none were presented.

Levi Pearce, of the Mississippi Conference, asked and obtained leave of absence, and Harvey F. Johnson, Reserve, was announced to fill his place.

The Session was indefinitely prolonged.

W. M. Prottzman and P. M. Pinckard offered a resolution in regard to

the boundaries of the St. Louis and Missouri Conferences, which was read and referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

S. P. Richardson and M. S. Andrews offered a resolution on Text-Books for Candidates for the Ministry, which was read and referred to the Committee on Books and Periodicals.

W. H. Seat and R. Alexander offered a resolution on Annual Conference Foreign Missions, which was read and referred to the Committee on Missions.

C. K. Marshall offered a resolution on Church Architecture, which was read and referred to the Committee on Books and Periodicals.

S. H. Browne and W. H. Fleming offered a resolution on the time of holding Annual Conferences, which was read and referred to the Committee on Episcopacy.

J. E. Edwards offered a resolution on the mode of receiving persons into the Church, which was read and referred to the Committee on Changes of Economy.

A. H. Mitchell and T. W. Dorman offered a resolution favoring the expunction of the proviso limiting Districts to fourteen charges, which was read and referred to the Committee on Revisal.

S. H. Browne and W. H. Fleming offered a resolution on Quarterly Conference business; one on the wording of the Lord's Prayer, and another on examination of character in Annual Conferences—all of which were read and referred to the Committee on Revisal.

A. Davidson and W. McK. Lambdin offered a resolution on appending proof-texts to the twenty-five Articles, which was read and referred to the Committee on Revisal.

W. M. Rush and C. J. Vandeventer offered a resolution on restoring expelled persons to the Church, which was read and referred to the Committee on Revisal.

L. Rosser and P. A. Peterson offered a resolution on the order of business in Quarterly Conferences, which was read and referred to the Committee on Revisal.

Thomas O. Summers offered a resolution inquiring into the expediency of making sundry changes, omissions, and additions in the Discipline, which was referred to the Committee on Revisal.

On motion of W. A. Smith, the Bishops' veto was made the order of the day for to morrow at 10 o'clock.

W. C. Johnson presented certain printed documents of the American Bible Society, which were referred to the Committee on the Circulation of the Holy Scriptures.

The Conference then adjourned with the benediction by the Bishop.

Friday Morning, April 13, 1866.

Conference met at the stated hour. Bishop Paine in the chair. Religious services were conducted by W. H. Watkins.

The Minutes were read and approved.

Bishop Andrew took the chair.

The call was made for Reports.

D. R. McAnally, chairman of the Committee on Books and Periodicals, reported back a paper respecting text-books, which was referred to the Committee on Education.

L. Rosser, chairman of the Committee on Missions, presented Report No. 1 of said committee, which was read and ordered to be printed in the *Daily Christian Advocate*.

Petitions and Memorials were then called for.

WESTERN VIRGINIA CONFERENCE.—S. Hargiss presented a resolution on the Course of Study, which was referred to the Committee on Education.

NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE.—The Delegates of the North Carolina Conference, through C. F. Deems, presented a paper on the Christian Culture of Children, which was read and referred to the Committee on Infant Church Membership.

SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE.—Whitefoord Smith presented a memorial from Mr. Robert Bryce and other official members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in Columbia, South Carolina, asking aid in the rebuilding of their Church, which was burned during the war.

On motion of E. W. Sehon,

Resolved, That the Conference has heard with deep emotion of the sad fortunes of our brethren in Columbia, South Carolina, and earnestly commend the agency of the Rev. Colin Murchison, who is soliciting aid for the rebuilding of their Church, to the kind and liberal consideration of the members and friends of our Communion.

W. Smith and W. H. Fleming presented a paper asking sundry changes in the Discipline, which was read and referred to the Committee on Revisal.

TEXAS CONFERENCE.—R. Alexander presented papers relating to Literary Institutions in Texas, which were referred to the Committee on Education.

W. C. Johnson announced Guilford Jones as taking his place in the Committee on Changes of Economy.

The order of the day, being the Bishops' veto, was then taken up.

On motion of W. M. Wightman, W. A. Smith was allowed to speak on this question without respect to the fifteen minutes' rule.

Bishop Pierce took the chair.

On motion of J. E. Evans, the session was indefinitely extended.

Bishop Andrew resumed the chair.

Thomas O. Summers presented a paper relating to Missions in Mexico, which was referred to the Committee on Missions.

S. H. Browne presented a programme of Church Business, which was referred to the Committee on Changes of Economy.

C. F. Deems and H. N. McTyeire were added to the Committee on the Circulation of the Holy Scriptures.

The Conference then adjourned with the benediction by the Bishop.

Saturday Morning, April 14, 1866.

Conference met at the stated hour. Bishop Andrew in the chair. Religious services were conducted by W. G. E. Cunningham.

The Minutes were read and approved.

Bishop Pierce took the chair.

M. J. Blackwell, of Memphis Conference, asked and obtained leave of absence, on account of indisposition, and J. H. Brooks, Reserve, took his place.

The chair then called for Reports.

W. M. Wightman, chairman of Committee on Episcopacy, submitted Report No. 1 of that committee, which was read and laid on the table, according to rule.

D. R. McAnally, chairman of Committee on Books and Periodicals, submitted Report No. 1 of that committee, which was read and adopted, as follows:—

The Committee on Books and Periodicals offer their Report No. 1:

1. The resolution signed by S. P. Richardson and M. S. Andrews, and referred to this committee, is herewith respectfully returned to the Conference, with the suggestion that it be transferred to the Committee on Education.

2. The Preamble and Resolutions signed by C. K. Marshall and H. N. McTyeire having been considered, the committee recommend for adoption by the Conference the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Agent or Agents of our Publishing interests, together with the Book Committee, be instructed to obtain suitable plans and specifications for building houses of worship in cities and towns, and also in rural districts; and that they cause the same to be published in book-form for the use and benefit of the Church at large.

Respectfully,

D. R. McANALLY, Chairman.

New Orleans, April 13, 1866.

J. E. Evans, chairman of the Committee on the Religious Interests of Colored People, submitted Report No. 1 of that committee, which was read and adopted, as follows :—

The Committee on the Religious Interests of the Colored People submit Report No. 1 :

Your committee recommend the adoption of the following, in reference to the education of the colored people :

WHEREAS, The condition of the colored people of the South is now essentially changed; and whereas, the interests of the white and colored people are materially dependent upon the intelligence and virtue of this race, that we have had and must continue to have among us; and whereas, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, has always claimed to be the friend of that people, a claim vindicated by the continuous and successful exertions made in their behalf, in instructing and evangelizing them; and it is important that we should continue to evince our interest for them in this regard; and as our hearts prompt us to this philanthropy; therefore,

Resolved, That we recommend to our people the establishment of day-schools, under proper regulations and trustworthy teachers, for the education of colored children.

Respectfully submitted.

J. E. EVANS, Chairman.

New Orleans, April 14, 1866.

J. E. Evans, chairman of the Committee on the Religious Interests of the Colored People, submitted Report No. 2 of that committee, which was read and laid on the table, according to rule.

E. H. Myers, chairman of the Committee on Changes of Economy, submitted Report No. 2 of that committee, and also a Minority Report, signed J. Hamilton and E. H. Myers, both of which were read and laid on the table, according to rule.

J. E. Evans, chairman of the Committee on the Circulation of the Holy Scriptures, submitted the Report of that committee, the Preamble of which had been recommitted, which was read, and the Report as a whole was adopted, as follows :—

The Committee on the Circulation of the Holy Scriptures submit their Report:

The times demand of the friends of the Bible renewed and energetic effort for the circulation of the Word of God. Infidelity, emboldened by the demoralizations of war, and the disaffections in the ranks of Zion, is marshalling all its forces to battle. The whole field is one scene of conflict. The heart of the most humble and unsophisticated Christian, and the intellect of the most gifted and cultivated, are alike the theater of strife and

struggle between hope and fear, between faith and unbelief. The domestic circle, social life, business in its multitudinous aspects, government in its legislative and executive forms—from the enactments of a town council to the most solemn resolves of the highest legislative authorities—from the Magistrate of a district to the Supreme Bench of a country—from the Mayor of a hamlet to the Chief Executive of a nation—all, all are being permeated by the secret leaven of infidelity; or are sought to be carried by undisguised and direct assault. The moral heavens are black with warring elements. The Church must equip for the fight; she must put on the whole armor of God, and take the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, that she may be able to stand.

The Word of God is the law of the *moral world*. The Great "I Am" has written his immutable law in the material universe; from the atom that floats in the breeze to the sun in the heavens—from the tenderest plant that grows to the tallest tree of the forest—from the insect of a day to a man in all his physical glory—everywhere, unchanging law prevails—God spake and it stood fast.

The same is true in the moral world. The Word of the Lord "is the only rule and the sufficient rule of our faith and practice." This Word regulates all the relations of man to his God, and of man to man. It is alike authoritative and comprehensive in its commands. It furnishes both the *rule* of life, and the *power* of action. The Bible is God speaking to man; and he who reads it, comes into the chamber of communion with the King of kings. Nothing is more elevating and refining to depraved and fallen man. And in the Bible alone is disclosed both the fact and the plan of salvation for sinners. Atoning blood and sanctifying grace are seen on every page; "whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises, that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world, through lust."

The Bible is the only rule of right, both to the ruler and the subject; to the parent and the child; to the Church and to the world. It furnishes the only remedy for fallen humanity, by which to make and keep men right; *therefore all men should have the Bible*. These are self-evident truths that commend themselves to all reflecting minds; your Committee, therefore, simply state them, without amplification or argumentation, as the ground of action in the Bible cause.

A very superficial survey of the field discovers to your committee that this country was never more destitute of the Sacred Scriptures. The last four years have not been favorable to Bible distribution. Moreover, nearly all the portable copies of the Scriptures of the land have been

given to the soldiers, by fond parents, affectionate sisters, or dearest companions, to guide and comfort them amid the dangers, toils, and privations of a soldier's life. But few of these copies of the Word of God have found their way back to the old homesteads—they have been ruined by exposure, lost on the battle-field, or left by the wayside of the soldier's devious pathway. And many, very many of the Bibles of larger size, have been carried away by the desolating waves that have swept over the land.

How shall this great destitution be supplied? is the ever-recurring question. The American Bible Society has appealed to us to unite with that organization to meet this demand. In July, 1865, the Corresponding Secretaries of the Society sent an appeal to the South inviting the coöperation of all Christian people in this hallowed cause. Moreover, the Rev. G. J. Pearce, of Georgia, and the Rev. S. P. Richardson, of Florida, both Delegates to this General Conference, were duly appointed and directed to represent the Society before this Conference, and request your coöperation. Brother Richardson appeared before the committee, and Brother J. Blakely Smith, also, at the request of Brother Pearce, who could not attend. These representatives gave us assurances of the desire of the Society that the M. E. Church, South, should unite with them in the work of Bible distribution.

Your committee are aware that there are some things in the history of the American Bible Society which the M. E. Church, South, cannot approve, and we do hereby distinctly express our disapprobation of, and enter our protest against, certain resolutions, addresses, and utterances to which the American Bible Society has allowed itself to be committed during the last few years, as reflecting unjustly upon the people of the South, and violative of its pledges and past character as a catholic institution. But believing from present indications that the Society is disposed to return to its original character and spirit, and willing on our part to excuse and overlook much, in view of the excitement of the times, and the local pressure that was upon the Managers, we would advise the renewal of our coöperation with the American Bible Society, upon condition that the offenses complained of shall not be repeated or perpetuated.

Your committee recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

Resolved, That this Conference will cordially unite with the American Bible Society in the circulation of the Sacred Scriptures, without note or comment, and that our preachers and people be and are hereby requested to coöperate also in this holy cause.

Resolved, That our Bishops be, and they are hereby, requested to ap-

point to the Bible Agency, from time to time, such of our traveling ministers as the Bible Society shall select for that work.

Resolved, That the Committee on Public Worship, appointed by this Conference, be, and they are hereby, instructed to confer with the officers of the Auxiliary Society in this city, and jointly with them, to make arrangements for a public Bible meeting at an early day during our session.

Respectfully submitted.

J. E. EVANS, Chairman.

J. Hamilton, chairman of the Committee on Boundaries, presented Report No. 3 of that committee, which was read, and the resolution embodied in it adopted. The preamble and minority report, signed by J. M. P. Hickerson and five other members of said committee, were laid on the table, according to rule.

The resolutions of R. S. Moran, laid on the table on Wednesday, were taken up and referred to the Committee on Revisal.

J. Hamilton and R. K. Hargrove offered a resolution on the Qualification of Candidates for the Ministry, which was read and referred to the Committee on Education.

On motion of N. Wilson and E. R. Veitch, resolved by the General Conference, in Conference assembled, that the Bishops be and are hereby respectfully requested to prepare for publication a Commentary on the Discipline, embracing Episcopal decisions, with a view to produce a harmonious administration thereof.

J. E. Evans and E. H. Myers offered a resolution relating to Love-feast Tickets, Eligibility to Orders, and Trial of Ministers, which was read and referred to the Committee on Revisal.

The question on which the Conference adjourned yesterday was taken up and the fifteen minutes' rule was suspended till L. Rosser finished his speech.

The Secretary presented a telegraphic dispatch from the New York Conference, signed by Bishop Ames and J. W. Chadwick, Secretary, proposing arrangements for reunion of the Methodist Churches, which was read, and, on motion of C. F. Deems, was transferred to the Bishops.

The Conference then adjourned with the benediction by the Bishop.

Monday Morning, April 16, 1866.

Conference met at the stated hour, Bishop Pierce in the chair. Religious services were conducted by A. H. Mitchell.

Special prayers were offered for the venerable Bishop Soule, Bishop Pierce having announced the reception of the following dispatch:—

"Bishop Soule very ill—cannot live but a few days"—an announcement which was received by the Conference with great emotion.

The Minutes were read and approved.

Bishop Early took the chair, and called for Reports.

Thos. O. Summers, chairman of Committee on Revisal, submitted Reports Nos. 3 and 4 of that committee, which were read and laid on the table, according to rule.

The chair then called for Petitions and Memorials.

J. Boring presented a communication from P. A. Moelling, on the interests of our German brethren in Texas, which was read and referred to the Committee on Missions.

J. E. Evans and J. S. Key offered resolutions on District Conferences, which were read and referred to the Committee on Changes of Economy.

Lorenzo D. Huston presented his voucher of election by the Kentucky Conference, and took his seat.

J. B. McFerrin and W. Mooney offered resolutions on the change of the name of the Church; and Whitefoord Smith and L. M. Lee offered a substitute, favoring the calling of a Convention of the Church.

On motion of E. E. Wiley, both papers were laid on the table for the present.

H. F. Johnson and J. MacLennan offered a resolution asking the substitution of "improper" for "sinful," on page 144 of the Discipline, which was read and referred to the Committee on Revisal.

L. Rosser, chairman of the Committee on Missions, submitted Report No. 2, which was read and adopted, item by item, as follows:—

The Committee on Missions beg leave to make Report No. 2. Having considered the Report of the Missionary Secretary, your committee would recommend to the General Conference the adoption of the following resolutions:

Resolved, 1. That we note, with gratitude to God, the prosperity which has hitherto attended our Domestic and German Missions; and do hereby earnestly recommend their continuance, under such regulations as the General Conference may see proper to adopt.

Resolved, 2. That we call special attention to our Indian Missions, and recommend an increased effort for their support; and that we request the Bishops to appoint a Superintendent for them, without waiting for the organization of the new Board: as the Mission is now in a disorganized state.

Resolved, 3. That the continuance of the China Mission during the war, when it was impossible to communicate with the brethren in that Mission, is cause of sincere gratitude to that gracious Providence which

so wonderfully preserved it; and we do hereby recommend to the General Conference that it be continued, with the hope that it will be largely increased and amply sustained.

Resolved, 4. That we highly appreciate and approve the long and valuable services of our worthy Missionary Secretary, Rev. E. W. Sehon, D.D., especially during the last eight years.

In regard to the resolution signed by W. H. Seat and R. Alexander, your committee beg leave to report as follows:

Inasmuch as the Board of Foreign Missions, provided for in our Report No. 1, is not prohibited by its Constitution from the employment of Annual Conference agency in the prosecution of its work, no special legislation on the subject is deemed necessary.

Your committee also ask the attention of the General Conference to the following resolution:

Resolved, That we request the General Conference to appoint a time for missionary meetings, to be held in this city during its present session, and to direct the Committee on Public Worship to make the necessary arrangements.

Respectfully submitted.

LEO. ROSSER.

New Orleans, April 13, 1866.

On motion of L. M. Lee, a paper previously referred to the Committee on Itinerancy, and certain facts extracted from the Journals of Annual Conferences, were transferred to the Committee on Episcopacy.

On motion of W. A. Smith, the order of the day was suspended, in order to take up Report No. 1 of the Committee on Episcopacy.

W. A. Smith offered a substitute for resolution 1 of that Report, both of which were laid on the table.

On motion of J. F. Hughes, the order of the day was further suspended in order to take up Report No. 1 of the Committee on Missions.

On motion of J. Hamilton, the time was extended.

The Report was taken up, item by item.

After some discussion, on motion of B. H. Spencer, the question was taken on the prefatory item, which was adopted by a vote of 90.

Article 1 was read, and, on motion of J. W. Glenn, was amended by adding the sentence, "When from any cause the General Conference shall fail to meet at the appointed time of meeting, the Board shall continue in office until the next meeting of the General Conference." The Article, as amended, was adopted.

Article 2 was read, and, on motion of J. C. Keener, was amended by inserting, after the word missions, the following clause: "And the building of churches, school-houses, and residences for missionaries, in any of

the missionary fields under its charge out of any funds which may have been specially given for those purposes."

A proviso, proposed by S. H. Browne, was not adopted.

Articles 3, 4, 5, were read, and adopted.

Article 6 was read, and, on motion of W. Harrington, was amended by substituting for the first sentence, "The sums allowed for the support of missionaries shall be sufficient to support them in their work, as the Board may determine." It was then adopted.

Articles 7, 8, 9, 10, were read, and adopted.

Article 11 was read, and A. H. Redford proposed to supply the blank with Louisville; R. A. Young, with Nashville; G. Jones, with Memphis; W. E. M. Linfield, with New Orleans; J. E. Cobb, with Baltimore; H. H. Parks, with Atlanta; W. A. Smith, with Richmond.

The Article was adopted, the nominations to fill the blank being laid on the table for the present.

Article 12 was read, and adopted.

A resolution of L. M. Lee, that the Foreign Board be, and they hereby are, instructed to project no new Foreign Mission, until the next session of the General Conference, was not adopted.

The Constitution of the Domestic Board was then acted upon.

Article 1 was read and adopted, with the same amendment as in Article 1 of the Foreign Board.

Articles 2, 3, 4, 5, were read, and adopted.

Article 6 was read, amended by substituting Board of Domestic Missions for "Society," and adopted.

Articles 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, were read, and adopted.

Article 12 was read and adopted, leaving the blank unfilled for the present.

Article 13 was read, and, on motion of H. F. Johnson, was amended by omitting "separate" before "collections," and adding, "which collections shall be kept separate." It was then adopted.

The two resolutions, after much discussion, were adopted.

On motion of E. H. Myers, the Report was recommitted, that the committee might embody in it the foregoing amendments, and report on another resolution offered by himself.

The Conference then adjourned with the benediction by the Bishop.

Tuesday Morning, April 17, 1866.

Conference met at the stated hour, Bishop Early in the chair. Religious services were conducted by Thomas O. Summers.

The Bishop announced the death on Sunday last of the Rev. D. B.

Nicholson, of the North Carolina Conference, on whom a eulogy was pronounced by C. F. Deems, of that Conference.

The Minutes were read and approved.

Bishop Andrew took the chair.

On motion of J. C. Keener, the chairmen of committees were instructed to furnish duplicate reports to the Publishing Committee of the Conference.

J. Hamilton, chairman of the Committee on Boundaries, submitted Report No. 4 of that committee, which was read and laid on the table, according to rule.

D. R. McAnally, chairman of the Committee on Books, etc., submitted Report No. 2 of that committee, which was read and laid on the table for the present.

On motion of E. H. Myers, chairman of the Committee on Changes of Economy, a memorial of the South Carolina Conference on the preparation of a Catechism for candidates for membership, which had been referred to that committee, was transferred to the Committee on Sunday-schools.

Memorials of J. F. Hughes and R. Smithson, relating to Sunday-schools, were presented, and referred to the Committee on Sunday-schools.

Bishop Paine took the chair, and called for the order of the day, to-wit: The appeal of the Rev. George F. Doggett.

The testimony in the case, with the decision of the Virginia Annual Conference, rendered November 25th, 1863, expelling George F. Doggett from the ministry, under the charge of gross immorality, was then read. See Document marked A.

Bishop Kavanaugh took the chair.

On motion of Whiteford Smith, the session was indefinitely extended.

L. M. Lee appeared as representative of George F. Doggett, showing the grounds of his appeal.

Peter A. Peterson followed as representative of the Virginia Conference.

Bishop Paine took the chair.

L. M. Lee responded. Pending his speech, Conference adjourned with the benediction by the Bishop.

Wednesday Morning, April 18, 1866.

Conference met at the stated hour, Bishop Paine in the chair. Religious services were conducted by S. Watson.

The Minutes were read and approved.

The chair then called for Reports.

D. R. McAnally, chairman of the Committee on Books, etc., submitted

Report No. 3 of that committee, which was read and laid on the table for the present.

Thomas O. Summers, chairman of the Committee on Revisal, submitted Report No. 5 of that committee, which was read and laid on the table under the rule.

L. M. Lee, chairman of the Committee on Itinerancy, transferred certain papers by Lovick Pierce on the plans of Circuits, relations and duties of preachers, which had been referred to that committee, to the Committee on Revisal.

W. C. Johnson offered a resolution on the questions propounded to preachers on their reception, which was read and referred to the Committee on Revisal.

C. K. Marshall offered a resolution on Raising Church Funds, which was read and referred to the Committee on Support of the Ministry.

W. Harrington offered a resolution on Sunday-school instruction in music, which was read and referred to the Committee on Sunday-schools.

T. L. Boswell offered a resolution on the business of Quarterly Conferences, which was read and referred to the Committee on Revisal.

W. A. Smith offered resolutions on Lay-Representation, which were read and referred to the Committee on Changes of Economy.

The following Preamble and Resolution were then offered, read, and adopted:—

WHEREAS, The Holston Conference did, in 1859, expel Coleman Campbell, a member of said Conference, from the ministry of the M. E. Church, South, and an appeal has been legally taken to this body; and, whereas, the minutes of the trial could not be presented here, not being in possession of the Conference at present; therefore,

Resolved, That this General Conference do, and the same hereby does, remand this case to the Holston Conference, with authority to resume the trial there *de novo*, or otherwise, as they shall judge best.

E. E. WILEY,
J. ATKINS.

New Orleans, April 18, 1866.

J. E. Cobb offered a resolution in regard to the bringing forward of the business of this Session, which being read, he moved to take the vote without debate. The question was lost by a vote of 49 to 54.

The resolution was then laid on the table for the present.

A communication from Mr. Rufus Dolbear, inviting the members of Conference to visit his Commercial College, and offering to receive the sons of clergymen into the College at half the usual charges, was presented by C. K. Marshall and read.

L. M. Lee then resumed his defense of the appeal of George F. Doggett.

Pending his speech, Bishop Kavanaugh took the chair, and, on motion of A. H. Mitchell, the session was indefinitely prolonged.

After the pleadings were closed, pending the discussion of the question, Bishop Paine took the chair.

On motion of P. M. Pinckard,

Resolved, That the decision of the Virginia Annual Conference, in the case of Rev. George F. Doggett, be, and is hereby affirmed.

The vote on this resolution was 68 to 51.

The Conference then adjourned with the benediction by the Bishop.

Thursday Morning, April 19, 1866.

Conference met at the stated hour, Bishop Paine in the chair. Religious services were conducted by R. Hiner.

The Minutes were read and approved.

Bishop Andrew took the chair and called for Reports.

W. M. Wightman, chairman of the Committee on Episcopacy, submitted Report No. 2 of that committee, which was read and adopted, as follows :—

REPORT NO. 2 OF THE COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY.

The Committee on Episcopacy beg leave respectfully to present the following as their Report No. 2 :

That they have had under review the Episcopal administration during the last eight years. A large portion of this eventful period has been marked by civil commotion and the dislocation of the established order of things. Under circumstances like these, it was obviously impossible, without serious detriment to the highest interests of the cause of Christ, to adhere tenaciously to the letter and technicalities of rules, imperative under ordinary circumstances. The Bishops, with the aid of the best counsel they could command, and with the best judgment they could form, met the emergencies of the time and the difficulties of their position, in a manner which, on the whole and with little exception, claims the respect and approval of the General Conference. The Committee beg to refer particularly to the admirable Address put forth by them at the close of the war, as being not only well-timed, but just such, in its temper, tone, and advices, as became them as the representative men of the M. E. Church, South. Their abstinence from political complications, and their strict adherence to the spirit and duties of their high calling as overseers of the Church of God, entitle them to the highest confidence and respect.

The committee, therefore, report for adoption by the General Conference the following resolution :

Resolved, That the character of the Bishops pass, and that their administration during the last eight years be and is hereby approved.

Respectfully submitted.

W. M. WIGHTMAN, Chairman.

New Orleans, April 19, 1866.

D. R. McAnally, chairman of the Committee on Books, etc., submitted Report No. 4 of that committee, which was read and laid on the table under the rule.

T. W. Dorman, P. M. Pinckard, Paul Whitehead, and J. E. Cobb, submitted a Minority Report, which was read. Both Reports lie on the table under the rule.

E. H. Myers, chairman of the Committee on Changes of Economy, submitted Report No. 3 of that committee, which was read. A Minority Report was submitted by B. Craven and others, which was also read. Both Reports lie on the table under the rule, and were made the order of the day for to-morrow at 10 o'clock.

J. H. Linn, chairman of the Committee on Correspondence with other Churches, submitted a Report, which was read and adopted, as follows—the blanks in resolutions 3 and 4, referring to the two fraternal messengers, being filled by the Conference:—

The Committee on Correspondence with other Churches respectfully presents the following Report :

The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, has great cause to rejoice humbly before God that he hath given her grace in times of tumult and great ungodliness to maintain ecclesiastical purity in consistence with the declaration of Christ, that his kingdom is not of this world. She has thus reassured the hearts of all those who seek for scriptural holiness and who have trembled for the Ark of God. And now the Head of the Church is bestowing his divine approval by bringing to her gates of salvation those who are seeking to find the old paths, and to walk therein. This is indicated by the welcomed accession of more than one hundred ministers and more than twelve thousand communicants from the bounds of a single Conference, an accession daily increased by scores of excellent and humble followers of our Lord.

This session of the General Conference has been gladdened by the presence of messengers and letters, official and unofficial, from other branches of Christ's Universal Church. In the North and North-west there are many persons of unimpeached Christian character who have been forced from their former ecclesiastical relations by reason of having dared to protest against the secularization of their Churches. They have

thus been driven by the spirit of fanaticism from more than one so-called Christian communion. Common suffering for righteousness' sake made for them a common bond of love and union. Animated by a desire to bring the Church back to evangelical purity, they have organized ecclesiastical associations, whose members are men and women of intelligence and piety, and whose ministers were ornaments to the Churches from which they had been ejected by reason of their devotion to an unsecularized Christianity. Denounced by the spirit which originally proscribed them, and having no sentiment of schism, they recognize in the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, a Christian Church founded upon the Prophets and Apostles, Christ being the chief corner-stone, and they send us their godly greetings and their fraternal messengers, thus kindling in us the glow of brotherly love which leads us to pray that they may be guided and strengthened until they shall have the blessed reward of seeing the separateness and supremacy of Christ's kingdom acknowledged in all this land.

Your committee have considered, also, with sincere pleasure, the communication from the Mississippi Conference, embodying a letter from our well-beloved brethren of the Methodist Protestant Church in that State. We perceive, with Christian joy, the decadence of the spirit of opposition between that branch of the Church and our own, and the growing assimilation in spirit and practice which we humbly trust will soon make us not only one in Christ Jesus, as we now most happily are, but one in our ecclesiastical organization, if the Lord will.

The committee has carefully observed all that has passed in this body in which the Northern Methodist Episcopal Church has been concerned.

The committee most respectfully presents the following Resolutions for the consideration of the General Conference :

Resolved, 1. That the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, stands this day, as she has always stood, ready and willing to consider, with Christian candor, any unequivocal and scriptural overtures for sympathy and fellowship which may be tendered her by any body of Christians in their general representative capacity.

Resolved, 2. That the General Conference most warmly reciprocates the fraternal greetings and expressions of Christian love borne from the Christian Union Church by their messenger, our brother, the Rev. J. Ditzler.

Resolved, 3. That one of the Bishops and the Rev. John H. Linn be, and they are hereby, appointed fraternal messengers from the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, to the next Annual Council of the Christian Union Church.

Resolved, 4. That one of the Bishops and the Rev. C. F. Deems be, and they are hereby, appointed as fraternal messengers of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, to the General Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, appointed to convene in Georgetown, in the District of Columbia, on the first Tuesday in May of the current year. And in case there be any providential hindrance to any messenger appointed under this and the preceding resolution, the Bishops shall have power to fill his place.

Resolved, 5. That in the interval of the General Conference, if any number of ministers representing a respectable number of Churches and congregations, occupying territory not embraced within the prescribed boundaries of any of our Annual Conferences, shall signify and formally express ■ wish to unite with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and shall give satisfactory assurance that they heartily believe our Articles of Religion, and are cordially willing to be governed by our Discipline, our Bishops may organize such district or territory into a Conference, which shall be recognized as one of the Annual Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, which shall be entitled to all the rights, privileges, and immunities of any other Annual Conference holding connection with said Church.

Resolved, 6. That if there be any Church, or Churches, or association of Churches, which shall signify a desire to unite with us, they shall be received upon giving any of our Bishops satisfactory assurance of their belief in our Articles of Religion, and their willingness to conform to our Discipline; and the ministers of such Church, or Churches, shall be received among us in the grade in the ministry held by them in the Churches from which they came, according to the mode prescribed in our Discipline.

All of which is most respectfully submitted.

J. H. LINN, Chairman.

New Orleans, April 19, 1866.

The Rev. J. Ditzler, messenger of the Christian Union, addressed the Conference in a brief speech, breathing a catholic spirit.

R. K. Hargrove offered a resolution on Statistics, which was read and referred to the Committee on Changes of Economy.

L. Rosser, chairman of the Committee on Missions, submitted Report No. 3 of that committee, which was read and laid on the table for the present.

The Rev. Mr. Shaver, President of the Alabama Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, was introduced to the Conference. He favored the Conference with a brief address, expressive of kind fraternal sentiments.

Bishop Pierce took the chair.

Report No. 1 of the Committee on Missions was called up, and, pending discussion, the session was indefinitely extended.

The Report, as a whole, was then adopted by a vote of 95 to 16, leaving the blanks in reference to location unfilled for the present. The Report is as follows:—

COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS—REPORT NO. 1.

The Committee on Missions beg leave to submit the following as a substitute for the entire *Section VII., Part 2*, pp. 277–291 of Discipline :

1. The Missionary operations of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, shall hereafter be committed to the management of two separate Boards, to be styled severally the Foreign and the Domestic, under the provisions and regulations following :

THE FOREIGN BOARD.

Article 1. This Board shall consist of a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and nine Managers, who shall all be members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and be quadrennially elected by the General Conference; but when, from any cause, the General Conference shall fail to meet at the appointed time, the Board shall continue in office until the next meeting of the General Conference. The Bishops shall be *ex-officio* members of this Board.

Article 2. The Board shall have authority to make by-laws for regulating its own proceedings; to appropriate money to defray incidental expenses; to provide for the support of superannuated missionaries, and widows and orphans of missionaries, who may not be provided for by any Annual Conference, (it being understood that they shall not receive more than is allowed by the Discipline to other superannuated ministers, widows and orphans;) and to print books for the Indian and Foreign Missions, and to build houses of worship and school-houses and residences for the missionaries in any of the missionary fields under its charge, out of any funds which may have been specially given for those purposes; and shall publish annually a statement of its transactions and funds; and shall also lay before the General Conference a report of all its transactions and a statement of its funds up to some convenient day near and prior to the time of holding the General Conference.

Article 3. Seven members, at all meetings of the Board, shall constitute a quorum.

Article 4. The Board shall keep a journal of all its proceedings, and the Minutes of each meeting shall be signed by the presiding officer and the Secretary.

Article 5. The revenue of this Board shall be derived as follows: From annual collections in every congregation, in such month as each Annual Conference may direct, from special collections made by the Secretary, and from donations and legacies.

Article 6. The sums allowed for the salaries of Missionaries shall be sufficient to support them in their work. The Board shall meet annually to vote appropriations of money to those in its employment, and the President of the Board shall draw on the Treasurer for the allowance, in quarterly or half-yearly instalments. And the Board shall require communications to be made quarterly by each of the Missionaries, or from each Mission, to the Secretary, giving information of the state and prospects of the Missions in which they are severally employed. No one shall be acknowledged as a Missionary, or receive support from the Board, who has not some definite field of labor assigned him, or could not be an effective laborer on a circuit, except as provided for in the second article.

Article 7. The Secretary shall reside at the place where the Board is located, but may be a member of any one of the Annual Conferences. It shall be his duty to journalize the proceedings of the Board, and to conduct their correspondence; to advise the Board of any matters which he may conceive important; to travel, as much as possible, through the Connection, visiting the Annual Conferences and the Missions under the care of the Board, promoting the interests of the Board; to give the Missionaries any information that may be necessary; to prepare and furnish for publication in the Church papers, monthly, an abstract of the proceedings of the Board, and condensed accounts of the Missionary work; and, furthermore, it shall be his duty to attend to all the business of the Board with the Government of the United States, in relation to schools which have been, or may hereafter be, committed to its care in the Indian country, by the Department of the Interior, or Commissioner of Indian Affairs; and it shall be his duty, also, to prepare and superintend the publication of the Annual Report, under the direction of the Board. His salary shall be fixed by the Board.

Article 8. The Treasurer shall hold all the funds of the Board in his possession, in safe deposit with such institutions as the Board may direct, which deposit shall be made by him as an officer of the Board, and subject to his drafts as such, and his successors in office. He shall furnish an annual report, to be published with the Annual Report of the Secretary.

Article 9. In case of vacancy, occasioned by death, resignation, or otherwise, in the Board, the vacancy shall be filled by the Board, until the ensuing General Conference.

Article 10. Any one of the Bishops, on the recommendation of the Board, shall appoint Missionaries to the foreign field.

Article 11. This Board shall be located and domiciled in ———.

Article 12. This Constitution shall not be altered or amended, but by a vote of two-thirds of the General Conference present, and voting on the alteration or amendment.

THE DOMESTIC BOARD.

Article 1. This Board shall consist of a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and nine Managers, who shall all be members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and be quadrennially elected by the General Conference; but when from any cause the General Conference shall fail to meet at the appointed time, the Board shall continue in office until the next meeting of the General Conference. The Bishops shall be *ex-officio* members of the Board.

Article 2. The Board shall have authority to make by-laws for regulating its own proceedings, to appropriate money to defray incidental expenses, and to publish books and tracts for German Missions; and shall publish annually a statement of its transactions and funds, and shall also lay before the General Conference a report of all its transactions, and a statement of its funds, up to some convenient day, near and prior to the time of holding the General Conference.

Article 3. Seven members, at all meetings of the Board, shall constitute a quorum.

Article 4. The Board shall keep a journal of all its proceedings, and the Minutes of each meeting shall be signed by the presiding officer and the Secretary.

Article 5. Each Annual Conference shall have charge of the Domestic Missions within its own bounds.

Article 6. It is recommended that each Annual Conference organize a Conference Board of Domestic Missions, auxiliary to this Board, under such regulations as they shall severally adopt, or the General Conference order. Each Conference Board shall annually transmit to the Secretary of this Board a copy of its annual report, embracing the operations within the bounds of the Conference, for publication in his Annual Report.

Article 7. The revenue of this Board shall be derived as follows:— Each Annual Conference Board shall forward to the Treasurer, annually, one-tenth, at least, of all its collections for Domestic Missions, and whatever balance may be in the Treasury after defraying the expenses of its own Missions, from special collections made by the Secretary, and from donations and legacies.

Article 8. The Board shall have power to grant assistance from its funds to such Annual Conference Missionary Boards as are not able to support the Domestic Missions within their own bounds.

Article 9. The Secretary shall reside at the place where the Board is located, but may be a member of any one of the Annual Conferences. It shall be his duty to journalize the proceedings of the Board, and to conduct its correspondence; to advise the Board of any matters which he may conceive important; to travel as much as possible through the Connection, visiting the Annual Conferences, promoting the interests of the Board; to furnish for publication in the Church papers, monthly, an abstract of the proceedings of the Board, and condensed accounts of the Missionary work. And it shall be his duty also to prepare and superintend the publication of the Annual Report, under the direction of the Board. His salary shall be fixed by the Board.

Article 10. The Treasurer shall hold all the funds of the Board, in his possession, in safe deposit, with such institutions as the Board may direct, which deposit shall be made by him as an officer of the Board, and subject to his drafts as such, and his successors in office. He shall furnish an annual report to be published with the Annual Report of the Secretary.

Article 11. In case of vacancy, occasioned by death, resignation, or otherwise, in the Board, the vacancy shall be filled by the Board, until the ensuing General Conference.

Article 12. This Board shall be located and domiciled in ———.

Article 13. This Constitution shall not be altered or amended but by ■ vote of two-thirds of the General Conference present, and voting on the alteration or amendment.

2. Let each Annual Conference organize ■ Missionary Board, auxiliary to the Domestic Board of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, under such regulations as the Conferences severally shall prescribe. And let each Conference Board transmit by its Secretary to the Secretary of the Parent Board, a copy of its annual report, stating, specifically, the number and names of the Missions belonging to the Conference; the number of members of the Church, and of the children catechised in each Mission; the numbers admitted on trial, and received into full fellowship during the year; the number baptized, and as nearly as may be the numbers attending public worship, and of the whole population within reach of the Missionary's appointments; together with the number of houses of worship on each Mission.

3. It shall be the duty of each Annual Conference to provide for the taking up of collections during the year, within its bounds, for the

Foreign Board, and the Domestic Board, which collections shall be kept separate.

4. It shall be the duty of the Presiding Elders to bring the subject of our Missions before the first Quarterly Conference of each of the circuits and stations within their districts, yearly, for the purpose of moving the Quarterly Conferences to adopt such measures as shall be deemed best for the promotion of the cause, by increasing the number of contributors, and the amount contributed for Missions, in their several circuits and stations.

5. It will be expected that, in the examination of character in the Annual Conferences, ■ reference will be had to the faithful performance of the duty of preachers on this subject.

The committee recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:—

1. The Missionary Society of the M. E. Church, South, is hereby directed to transfer all the assets, property, and liabilities, connected with the Indian and China Missions, to the Foreign Board; and all assets, property, and liabilities, connected with Domestic Missions, to the Domestic Board.

2. These Boards shall, as soon as practicable after organizing, procure separate and suitable acts of incorporation in their respective localities.

LEO. ROSSER, Chairman.

W. M. Rush and B. H. Spencer offered a resolution on Standing Committees for trials and appeals in Annual and General Conferences, which was read and referred to the Committee on Revisal.

A Financial Plan, by S. Lander, of the South Carolina Conference, was presented by J. Stacy, and referred to the Committee on the Support of the Ministry.

S. H. Browne and J. W. Kelly offered a resolution proposing an amendment of the Note to Article XXIII., which was read and referred to the Committee on Revisal, with instructions to inquire into the history of that Note, and report to this Conference.

N. H. D. Wilson offered a resolution on Church Trials, which was read and referred to the Committee on Revisal.

W. J. Johnson offered ■ resolution on the duties of Presiding Elders, which was read and referred to the Committee on Revisal.

B. Jones and C. K. Marshall offered a resolution relating to Trustees, which was read and referred to the Committee on Revisal.

On motion of J. E. Evans,

Resolved, That no papers referring to changes of Discipline shall be received after to-morrow.

The Conference then adjourned with the benediction by the Bishop.

Friday Morning, April 20, 1866.

Conference met at the stated hour, Bishop Pierce in the chair. Religious services were conducted by R. A. Young.

The Minutes were read and approved.

The Chair then called for Reports.

E. H. Myers, chairman of the Committee on Changes of Economy, submitted Report No. 4 of that committee, which was read and laid on the table under the rule.

B. Craven gave notice that he, and other members of the committee, would submit a Minority Report to-morrow.

J. M. P. Hickerson and John M. Steele offered a resolution on amending the Discipline as to the duties of Presiding Elders, in regard to the employment of Local Preachers, which was read and referred to the Committee on Revisal.

H. F. Johnson and H. H. Montgomery offered a resolution on the Ordination of Preachers on Trial, which was read and referred to the Committee on Revisal.

W. R. Gober and O. P. Fitzgerald offered a resolution, which was read, and pending its discussion, Bishop Andrew took the chair. The resolution was then adopted, as follows:—

Resolved, That the Board of Foreign Missions be, and they are hereby, instructed to establish a Mission for the Chinese in California, as soon as the finances of the Society will justify it.

On motion of J. B. McFerrin, the Committee on Missions was instructed to make out a full statement of the indebtedness of the Missionary Society, divide the same among the Annual Conferences as equitably as possible, and report to this Conference.

On motion of A. L. P. Green,

Resolved, That in taking the collections for the Foreign and Domestic Missions, the Foreign Mission shall have precedence, in point of time, until the debt is paid.

A motion of C. F. Deems, to postpone the order of the day until Monday, being lost, on motion of N. H. D. Wilson, the order of the day was postponed till to-morrow at 10 o'clock.

A. Means asked, through Bishop Pierce, and obtained leave of absence, on account of indisposition.

A resolution of R. S. Moran on Appeals was offered, read, and referred to the Committee on Revisal.

A resolution of J. C. Keener, on the Duties of Bishops, was offered, read, and referred to the Committee on Revisal.

P. M. Pinckard presented a paper on the Support of the Ministry, which was referred to the committee on that subject.

B. H. Spencer and W. M. Rush offered a resolution instructing the Committee on Itinerancy to explain the question, asked in Quarterly Conferences, "Are there any complaints?" which was read and referred to said committee.

On motion of T. W. Dorman, Report No. 4 of the Committee on Books, etc., was made the order of the day for Monday.

A resolution of J. E. Edwards and Paul Whitehead, proposing the publication of General Conference Resolutions in an Appendix to the Discipline, was offered, read, and laid on the table for the present.

J. S. Kennedy and W. G. E. Cunyningham offered a resolution proposing a Form of Church Dedication, which was read and referred to the Committee on Revisal.

Report No. 2 of the Committee on the Religious Interests of Colored People was called up, read, and acted upon, item by item. Pending action, the session was prolonged. After considerable discussion, the Report was adopted, as follows:—

The Committee on Religious Interests of Colored People present Report No. 2

ON COLORED MEMBERS.

Question. What shall be done to promote the Religious Interests of the Colored People?

Answer 1. Let our colored members be organized as separate pastoral charges, wherever they prefer it, and their numbers may justify it.

2. Let each pastoral charge of colored members have its own Quarterly Conference, composed of official members, as provided for in the Discipline.

3. Let colored persons be licensed to preach, and ordained deacons and elders, according to the Discipline, when, in the judgment of the Conference having jurisdiction in the case, they are deemed suitable persons for said office and order in the ministry.

4. The Bishop may form a District of colored charges, and appoint to it a colored Presiding Elder, when in his judgment the religious interests of the colored people require it.

5. When it is judged advisable by the College of Bishops, Annual Conferences of colored preachers may be organized, to be presided over by our Bishops.

6. When two or more Annual Conferences shall be formed, let our Bishops advise and assist them in organizing a separate General Conference jurisdiction for themselves, if they so desire, and the Bishops

deem it expedient, in accordance with the Doctrines and Discipline of our Church, and bearing the same relation to the General Conference as the Annual Conferences bear to each other.

7. Let special attention be given to Sunday-schools among the colored people.

The above chapter is recommended by the Committee on the Religious Interests of the Colored People to the General Conference for its adoption.

Respectfully submitted.

J. E. EVANS, Chairman.

April 13, 1866.

G. W. D. Harris asked and obtained leave of absence.

The hour of adjournment of Conference was changed from 12 to 2½ P.M.

Bishop Andrew then made a most affecting address to the Conference, requesting the Conference, in view of his age, to place him on the retired list.

On motion of E. H. Myers, the request was referred to the consideration of the Committee on Episcopacy.

Report No. 1 of the Committee on Changes of Economy was then called up, and referred to the Committee of the Whole, into which the Conference resolved itself, Bishop Pierce in the chair.

After sitting for a while, the Committee rose, reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again to-morrow.

Certain papers, relating to the African M. E. Church, were presented by J. E. Evans, and referred to the Committee on the Religious Interests of the Colored People.

The Conference then adjourned with the benediction by the Bishop.

Saturday Morning, April 21, 1866.

Conference met at the stated hour. Bishop Pierce in the chair. Religious services were conducted by W. H. Ellison.

The Minutes were read and approved.

Bishop Early took the chair and called for Reports.

Thos. O. Summers, chairman of the Committee on Revisal, submitted Report No. 6 of that committee, which was read, and laid on the table under the rule.

S. Register, chairman of the Committee on Infant Church Membership, submitted a report, which was read, and laid on the table under the rule.

B. Craven, W. M. Rush, J. M. P. Hickerson, A. R. Winfield, N. H. Lee, and G. Jones, submitted a Minority Report for Report No. 4 of the Committee on Changes of Economy.

W. M. Wightman, chairman of the Committee on Episcopacy, submitted Report No. 3 of that committee, which was read, and unanimously adopted by a standing vote, as follows :—

REPORT NO. 3 OF THE COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY.

The Committee on Episcopacy beg respectfully to report the following resolutions as, in their judgment, suitable to be adopted in reference to the application of Bishop Andrew for permission to retire from the active duties of the Episcopal office :

Resolved, That the General Conference has heard, with profound emotion, the request made by our honored and beloved friend, Bishop Andrew, that he be allowed, on account of advanced years and growing infirmities, to retire from the responsibilities connected with an active participation in the Episcopal administration. While the General Conference cannot be indifferent to the important considerations, and cannot but approve of the high and delicate motives which prompt this course, at the same time the representatives of the Annual Conferences of the M. E. Church, South, cannot allow the occasion to pass without expressing, as they now take pleasure in doing, the respect and affection universally felt for the venerable Bishop—the honor in which his past services are held, and the luster which his spotless character has shed on Southern Methodism. They devoutly pray that the evening of his life may be serene—full of the consolations of that Gospel he has preached for more than a half century—bright with the unspeakable hope of eternal life through Christ Jesus.

Resolved, furthermore, That Bishop Andrew be, and he is hereby, released, according to his request, from active participation in the responsibilities of the Episcopal office. At the same time the General Conference beg that he will, as far as his health and circumstances allow, give to his colleagues, and the Church at large, the benefits of his experience and counsels, and highly appreciated visits to the Annual Conferences.

Respectfully submitted.

W. M. WIGHTMAN, Chairman.

New Orleans, April 21, 1866.

J. E. Edwards, chairman of the Committee on Sunday-schools, submitted a Report, which was read, and laid on the table under the rule, and made the order of the day for Friday next, at 10 o'clock.

L. Rosser, chairman of the Committee on Missions, submitted Report No. 4 of that committee, which was read, and adopted, as follows :—

The Committee on Missions beg leave to make their Report No. 4.

Your committee have examined the statements of the Secretary and

Treasurer of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, taken from the Journal of the Society, and find the debt of that Society, as nearly as we can ascertain it, to be about sixty thousand dollars, and recommend that it be distributed among the several Annual Conferences, as follows :

To the Western Virginia Conf.....	\$ 500
“ “ Kentucky “	3,000
“ “ Tennessee “	2,300
“ “ Holston “	1,000
“ “ South Carolina “	2,200
“ “ Florida “	1,500
“ “ Louisville “	3,000
“ “ Virginia “	3,000
“ “ North Carolina “	3,000
“ “ Memphis “	3,000
“ “ Montgomery “	4,500
“ “ Mobile “	4,500
“ “ Mississippi “	2,500
“ “ Louisiana “	3,000
“ “ Missouri “	1,000
“ “ Indian Mission “	200
“ “ Arkansas “	1,000
“ “ Wachita “	1,500
“ “ St. Louis “	2,500
“ “ Texas “	4,000
“ “ East Texas “	1,500
“ “ Georgia “	4,500
“ “ California “	3,000
“ “ Baltimore “	4,000
Total.....	<u>\$60,200</u>

Respectfully submitted.

LEO. ROSSER, Chairman.

New Orleans, April 20, 1866.

J. Hamilton, chairman of the Committee on Boundaries, submitted Report No. 5 of that committee, which was read, and recommitted, with instructions to report the boundaries where changes have been made.

W. Kennedy, M. S. Andrews, W. W. Bennett, L. Parker, and S. Woodberry, submitted a Minority Report for the second item of the foregoing Report: it was read, and laid on the table under the rule.

E. H. Myers, chairman of the Committee on Changes of Economy,

submitted Report No. 5 of that committee, which was read, and laid on the table under the rule.

Also, Report No. 6 of said committee, which was read, and a motion of J. Hamilton, to adopt the last resolution, and a substitute of M. S. Andrews, to refer it to the Committee on Episcopacy, after much discussion, being lost, the Report was laid on the table under the rule.

A communication from Colored People in Vicksburg, in regard to a Church in that city, was read and referred to the Committee on the Religious Interests of Colored People.

The order of the day was then called up, being Report No. 3 of the Committee on Changes of Economy. B. Craven and others submitted a Minority Report, which was read. After considerable discussion, Conference adjourned with the benediction by the Bishop.

Monday Morning, April 23, 1866.

Conference met at the stated hour, Bishop Early in the chair. Religious services were conducted by J. H. Linn.

The Minutes were read and approved.

The following resolution was then offered, read, and adopted:—

Resolved, That the venerable and honored Dr. Lovick Pierce is hereby respectfully requested to address this body on any subject connected with the history and polity of our beloved Methodism, at such time as may be most agreeable to him.

W. H. ANDERSON,
N. H. LEE.

The question on which the Conference adjourned on Saturday was resumed—a motion of W. A. Smith to suspend the fifteen minute rule in the discussion of this question, being lost.

Bishop Kavanaugh took the chair.

After considerable discussion, on motion of W. Smith, the question was laid on the table for the present.

On motion of H. N. McTyeire,

Resolved, That it is the sense of this General Conference that Lay-Representation be introduced into the Annual and General Conferences.

L. Rosser called for the ayes and noes. The roll being called, the vote stood as follows:—

Ayes—Martin, Veitch, L. M. Lee, D. S. Doggett, W. A. Smith, Duncan, Head, Bennett, Edwards, Granberry, Whitehead, Hargiss, Deems, Bobbitt, Burkhead, Moran, W. Smith, Shipp, H. A. C. Walker, S. H. Browne, Boyd, Stacy, Fleming, Betts, Kelly, Lovick Pierce, Glenn, Evans, Myers, Mann, Key, Crumley, Potter, Branham, Parks, Means, J.

Anderson, Richardson, Mills, Woodberry, H. N. McTyeire, Blue, Ellison, McCarty, Ross, Cottrell, Andrews, Summers, Wightman, Hamilton, Mitchell, Hargrove, Dorman, Parker, J. B. Walker, Linfield, Watkins, Montgomery, Harrington, Marshall, H. F. Johnson, Watson, W. C. Johnson, McFerrin, Green, Young, West, Cunyngham, Wiley, Atkins, J. S. Kennedy, Hiner, Rand, Huston, Morris, Winton, Peery, Pinckard, Vandeventer, Spencer, Harrell, Dennis, Alexander, Lambdin, Stamford, Veal, Davidson, John, Whipple, Seat, Boring, Gober, Fitzgerald, Neely, Riggs—95.

Noes—Register, N. Wilson, Roszel, Eggleston, Peterson, Rosser, W. Kennedy, Craven, N. H. D. Wilson, Anthony, J. B. Smith, Keener, Harp, J. G. Jones, MacLennan, Boswell, Harris, G. Jones, Moss, Bynum, Mullins, Brooks, Hanner, J. F. Hughes, Maddin, Mooney, Burr, Petway, J. M. McTeer, Linn, Sehon, W. H. Anderson, N. H. Lee, Redford, E. Johnson, McAnally, Prottsman, Monroe, W. M. Rush, E. T. Jones, Hicker-son, Steele, Hunter, Ratcliffe, Cobb, Winfield, W. H. Hughes, Tullis, Binckley, McKenzie—50.

On motion of S. Register,

Resolved, That a committee of one from each delegation be appointed by the delegations severally to bring in at an early day a plan for effecting this object.

After a short recess, Bishop Paine took the chair, and the delegations reported, as follows:—

Baltimore, N. Wilson; Virginia, W. A. Smith; Western Virginia, S. Hargiss; North Carolina, B. Craven; South Carolina, A. M. Shipp; Georgia, J. W. Glenn; Florida, S. P. Richardson; Montgomery, H. N. McTyeire; Mobile, J. Hamilton; Louisiana, L. Parker; Mississippi, W. H. Watkins; Memphis, T. L. Boswell; Tennessee, J. B. McFerrin; Holston, E. E. Wiley; Louisville, J. H. Linn; Kentucky, J. Rand; St. Louis, F. A. Morris; Missouri, C. J. Vandeventer; Arkansas, J. M. Steele; Wachita, W. P. Ratcliffe; Indian Mission, J. Harrell; East Texas, J. B. Tullis; Texas, R. Alexander; Rio Grande, J. Boring; Pacific, W. R. Gober.

On motion of Thomas O. Summers,

Resolved, That the several delegations be and are hereby instructed to furnish the Secretary of this Conference with complete lists of the Delegates and Reserve Delegates elect to the General Conference of the M. E. Church, South, which was appointed to meet in New Orleans, April, 1862, for insertion in the Journal of the General Conference.

Resolved, That the Secretaries of Annual Conferences be and are hereby requested to forward the Minutes of their respective Conferences

for the last four years to the Book Editor, to be printed in the General Minutes.

The Conference then adjourned with the benediction by the Bishop.

Tuesday Morning, April 24, 1866.

Conference met at the stated hour. Bishop Kavanaugh in the chair. Religious services were conducted by N. Head.

The Minutes were read and approved.

Bishop Paine took the chair.

Paul Whitehead asked and obtained leave of absence.

L. M. Lee, chairman of the Committee on Itinerancy, submitted Reports Nos. 2 and 3 of that committee, which were read and laid on the table under the rule.

Also, Report No. 4, which was read and adopted, as follows:—

REPORT NO. 4 OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITINERANCY.

The Committee on Itinerancy, to whom was referred the Resolution of the Holston Conference respecting the improper expulsion of certain members of its body, having given due consideration to the subject, beg leave to submit for the adoption of this body, and for the government of the action of the Holston Conference, the following resolution:

Resolved, That in all cases where ministers may have been suspended, or expelled from the Holston Conference, without due forms of trial, such action, on the part of the Conference, be declared null and void.

LEROY M. LEE, Chairman.

New Orleans, April 24, 1866.

D. R. McAnally, chairman of the Committee on Books, etc., submitted Report No. 5 of that committee, which was read and adopted, as follows:—

The Committee on Books and Periodicals offer Report No. 5.

Certain papers having been referred to the committee in regard to a legacy, or legacies, left to the Church for the benefit of the Book Concern and Missionary Society, by Cornelius Van Houten and Susannah Van Houten, late of Holmes county, Mississippi, after a consideration of the same, the committee recommend the appointment of B. T. Owen, Esq., as Agent of this Conference and of the Church, to make a final settlement with the executors of said estates; and further recommend that the amount of money accruing to the Missionary Society from this source be paid over to the Board of Foreign Missions to aid in the liquidation of its debts; and, further, that the Book Agent and the Treasurer of the Missionary Society be authorized to advise with the Agent, Mr. B. T. Owen, in regard to any sales of land or of other property, and be author-

ized to execute, in the name and in behalf of the Church, whatever deeds, receipts, or other papers may be necessary for the final settlement of said estates.

Respectfully,

D. R. McANALLY, Chairman.

New Orleans, La., April 23, 1866.

J. E. Evans, chairman of the Committee on the Religious Interests of Colored People, submitted Report No. 3 of that committee, which was read, and, in connection with it, communications from the Bishops and a Delegation of the African M. E. Church, praying for the transfer of certain Church property to that Connection.

The Report was then acted on, item by item—the second resolution and the preamble were amended, and the Report, as a whole, was adopted, as follows:—

REPORT NO. 3 OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE RELIGIOUS INTERESTS OF
THE COLORED PEOPLE.

Your committee have had under consideration the communications referred to us from the Bishops of the African M. E. Church, and also the address of the Delegates of that Church to this General Conference. These papers present the friendly greetings and Christian regards of that Church to the M. E. Church, South; and also make the request that the General Conference shall give such direction in regard to the houses of worship occupied by colored congregations, who have left or may leave the M. E. Church, South, and join that Church, as shall secure the property to said Church.

Your committee have also had under consideration the memorials touching the property question, from the colored people of Vicksburg, Mississippi, and Lexington, Kentucky.

Your committee regard it due alike to the A. M. E. Church, and to the General Conference, that the communications of the Bishops and Delegates of that Church to this Conference should be read before the Conference, and they are herewith returned for that purpose.

Having provided for the full development of a Church organization, for the colored people, up to a General Conference, in connection with the M. E. Church, South, and being desirous to do all that we can to promote their salvation; with an eye single to the glory of God and the best interests of that people, your committee recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

Resolved by the General Conference in Conference assembled, That we reciprocate the Christian sentiments of the Bishops and Delegates of the African M. E. Church, and that we greet the Ministers of that Church as brethren in the work of giving the pure gospel of Christ to the colored

people of these lands; and we do hereby pledge the Church we represent to a coöperation on high Christian principles in this holy cause.

Resolved, 2. That this Conference reciprocates the kind regards of the Bishops and Delegates of the African M. E. Church, but does not see its way clear to grant their request in regard to the transfer of the Church property, held for the use of colored congregations.

Resolved, 3. That the memorials from the colored people of Vicksburg, Mississippi, and Lexington, Kentucky, be, and they are hereby, referred to the Quarterly Conferences having jurisdiction in the case, with the request that they give them special consideration.

Resolved, 4. That our members and friends be advised to encourage the circulation of the Holy Scriptures among the colored people.

Respectfully submitted.

J. E. EVANS, Chairman.

New Orleans, April 24, 1866.

The order of the day, being the Report No. 4 of the Committee on Books and Periodicals, was then called up.

The Report was read, and also the Minority Report.

The Report of the Majority was then acted on, item by item, and, on motion, the words, "the City of Nashville, Tennessee," were stricken out.

A paper of R. Abbey, exhibiting a plan for publishing books, etc., was read.

On motion, A. L. P. Green was allowed to continue his speech, without regard to the fifteen minutes' rule.

Pending the discussion, Conference adjourned with the benediction by the Bishop.

Wednesday Morning, April 25, 1866.

Conference met at the stated hour, Bishop Paine in the chair. Religious services were conducted by J. R. Pickett.

The Minutes were read and approved.

Bishop Andrew took the chair.

Thomas O. Summers, chairman of the Committee on the Centenary of American Methodism, submitted a Report, which was read and adopted, as follows:—

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE CENTENARY OF AMERICAN METHODISM.

The committee appointed to consider the resolution of the Louisville Conference in relation to the Centenary of American Methodism, report that various dates are assigned for the origin of Methodism in America. According to some authorities, there were societies of Methodists organized in this country in 1760. The Discipline states that in 1766 Philip

Embury and Robert Strawbridge, local preachers from Ireland, began to preach and form societies in New York and Maryland. In 1769 Messrs. Boardman and Pilmoor were sent over by Mr. Wesley as the first regular Methodist preachers on this continent.

In the Pastoral Address of the British Conference in 1820, written by Richard Watson, speaking of the spread of Methodism in this country, it is said, "Such has been the glorious result of little more than half a century, and of that feeble commencement of the work which took place in 1766." As John Emory was in attendance at that Conference, as the representative of American Methodism, it is likely that that date was derived from him. But in the Pastoral Address of 1824, Mr. Watson says, "This vast work has arisen from God's blessing on the labors of two preachers sent out by our venerable founder from this country in the year 1769, and may well lead us to exclaim, 'What hath God wrought!'" This would seem to indicate that the British brethren dated the origin of American Methodism from 1769—accordingly some think that 1869 would be the proper centenary year.

The General Centenary of Methodism was not dated from 1729, when Oxford Methodism began, nor 1737, when, in the language of the Wesleys, God thrust them out to raise a holy people; but in 1739, when the forming elements, crystalized into the United Society.

There is one date, however, which is undisputed, and it marks the great historic event, which gave organic form and permanency to Methodism in this country, to-wit, the combination of the Wesleyan Society elements into a regular ecclesiastical body, recognized as the Methodist Episcopal Church in America, of which the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, is a living representative.

As the circumstances of our Church and country do not favor any demonstrations of such a nature as usually characterize centennial celebrations, and as no definite date can be assigned for the origin of Methodism in America in its inchoate character as a Wesleyan Society, like that of 1784, which marks its organization as a duly constituted Episcopal Church, the committee do not recommend that any formal centennial celebration take place until 1884; nevertheless, as Methodism, in its rudimentary character, began its operations during the decade which ended in 1769, and as this is, probably, the only General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, which will be held during the present decade, the committee recommend the Conference to adopt the following resolutions:

Resolved, That this Conference, representing the ministers and members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, recognize with profound

gratitude to Almighty God the amazing success which has attended the progress of Methodism in America, originating in movements so small, informal, and unpromising, about a hundred years ago.

Resolved, That this Conference pledges the Church that it will, by God's help, reproduce on a larger scale, with more promising appliances, the zeal, energy, and success, of former times, so that when the centennial celebration of our proper ecclesiastical organization shall be held in 1884, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, may exclaim with greater emphasis than ever, "What hath God wrought!"

Respectfully submitted.

THOMAS O. SUMMERS, Chairman.

New Orleans, April 25, 1866.

E. H. Myers, chairman of the Committee on Changes of Economy, obtained leave to transfer a paper on Church Statistics, and another on Quarterly Conferences, to the Committee on Revisal.

He also submitted Report No. 7 of the Committee on Changes of Economy, which was read and adopted, as follows:—

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CHANGES OF ECONOMY, NO. 7.

The Committee on Changes of Economy beg leave to make their final Report.

The only papers referred to the committee not acted upon in some one of its reports or returned to the Conference are the following:

1st. A Constitution for the Church, offered to the consideration of the General Conference, by Rev. G. W. Chatfield. The committee consider that this body cannot go into the elaborate subject presented in this paper, and that it is not necessary to do so, as only a few changes in the present Constitution are all that is needed. We therefore respectfully return the paper.

2d. A Memorial from the South Carolina Conference, covering one from the official members of the several churches in the city of Charleston, has been before us. The prayer of the memorialists is, that the power of the Bishop be enlarged in respect to making appointments in Charleston, so that preachers may remain there in any one church longer than two years, as in the city of New Orleans. The South Carolina Conference united in the petition.

Your committee recommend that if their previous report respecting the extension of the pastoral term be not accepted, that at least the General Conference will consider the arguments of the memorial and grant the prayer of the memorialists.

This completes the business assigned to this committee; and we therefore make this as our final Report, and beg to be discharged.

Respectfully submitted.

E. H. MYERS, Chairman.

H. N. McTyeire, chairman of the Special Committee on Lay-Representation, submitted the Report of that committee, which was read.

J. C. Keener and N. H. D. Wilson submitted substitutes for the Report which were read.

The Report and substitutes were laid on the table under the rule.

Resolutions of A. Monroe, in regard to the bringing forward of business and fixing a day for adjournment, were read and laid on the table.

A motion to recommit Report No. 3 of the Committee on Boundaries was lost.

The subject under discussion at the adjournment on yesterday, being Report No. 4 of the Committee on Books, etc., was taken up.

Bishop Pierce took the chair.

On motion of A. H. Mitchell, the vote was taken on the first item of the Report, which was adopted by a vote of 73 to 48. The other items were adopted—a motion to strike out the clause referring to the Sunday-school Visitor, being lost. Nashville, Louisville, Baltimore, and St. Louis, were severally nominated to fill the blanks in reference to locality. Nashville was chosen by a vote of 73; and the Report, as a whole, was adopted, as follows:—

The Committee on Books and Periodicals offer Report No. 4, and recommend that Section (VIII) eight, Part 2d, of the Discipline, pp. 292 to 305 inclusive, be stricken out, and the following inserted:

I. *Publishing House*.—(1.) There shall be a Book Establishment at the city of Nashville, Tennessee, for the purpose of manufacturing and publishing books, to be called "The Publishing House of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South," and to be under the control of the General Book Agent, and a committee, to be called the Book Committee, all of whom shall be elected by the General Conference. (2.) The object of this institution shall be to advance the cause of Christianity by disseminating religious knowledge and useful literary and scientific information, in the form of Books, Tracts, and Periodicals.

II. *Duties of the General Book Agent*.—The General Book Agent shall have charge of the funds, stock, fixtures, and real estate, and all other property of the Publishing House, and of the Depositories and Periodicals belonging to the General Conference; and he shall be responsible to said Conference for the prudent use and safe management of the

same, under the general direction of the Conference. He shall make a yearly exhibit to the several Annual Conferences, and give a full account of the state and progress of the business to the General Conference. He shall publish only such books and tracts as are approved by the Book Editor, and in case of difference between the Book Editor and the Book Agent, the matter shall be referred to the Book Committee. He shall supply, as far as practicable, the demand of the Church for books, tracts, and periodicals, availing himself of all the facilities of other establishments for their publication, at the cheapest rates; and in all investments for the manufacturing of books, he is required to govern himself strictly by the principles of economy. He shall sell the books for cash, or short credit, but in no case shall he grant credits where, in his judgment, it will endanger the interests of the Publishing House. He shall make no investments in grounds, houses, or permanent fixtures, without the authority of the Book Committee.

III. *The Book Committee.*—There shall be a Book Committee of nine, five of whom shall be resident at Nashville, Tennessee. They shall, whenever consulted, give advice to the General Book Agent in all matters connected with the Publishing House. They shall fix the salaries of the Agent and Editor at Nashville, and during the intervals of the General Conference, they and one or more of the Bishops shall have the power to fill vacancies in their own body, in the Agency, and in the Editorial Corps at Nashville.

IV. *General Conference Periodicals and Editors.*—The General Book Agent shall be authorized to publish a weekly periodical or newspaper, to be called the “Christian Advocate,” and a child’s paper, to be called “The Sunday-school Visitor,” said Editor to be elected by the General Conference. It is provided that if the business of the Publishing House shall increase so as to require additional editorial labor, the Book Committee, with the General Book Agent and one of the Bishops, in the interval of the General Conference, shall have the authority to elect an additional Editor or Editors, who shall come under the same rule as to salary with the General Book Agent and Book Editor. It is further provided, that should the General Book Agent and Book Committee find it necessary and expedient to publish a monthly periodical, they may engage in such publication upon the recommendation of three or more Annual Conferences and the College of Bishops.

V. But should any of the above named periodicals, except the Sunday-school Visitor, after a fair experiment, fail to meet expenses, the Book Agent shall be authorized to discontinue the publication of the same.

VI. *Proceeds of the Publishing House.*—The proceeds of the Publish-

ing House shall be appropriated to no other purpose than its own legitimate business.

VII. *Depositories*.—(1.) The Depository at New Orleans shall be continued under the superintendence of an Agent to be appointed by the General Book Agent. (2.) Any Conference, or two or more Conferences unitedly, may establish an Agency or Depository for the sale of our publications, provided the business with the Publishing House be conducted upon strictly business principles. And the General Book Agent is authorized to suspend operations with any Agency or Depository that does not meet its payments promptly.

VIII. *Conference Relations of Agents and Editors*.—Each of the officers elected by the General Conference, who are traveling preachers, shall be a member of such Annual Conference as he may select, with the approbation of the Bishops.

IX. *Other Church Papers*.—The Editors for such papers as have been or may yet be established by Annual Conferences as their organs, shall be elected by the General Conference, whenever such is the desire of those representing such papers.

Respectfully,

D. R. McANALLY, Chairman.

New Orleans, April 19, 1866.

On motion of A. Monroe, Conference agreed, when it adjourns, it adjourn to meet this evening at 6 o'clock, to elect a Book Agent.

Report No. 1 of the Committee on Episcopacy was then taken up.

Pending the discussion of this subject, W. A. Smith was allowed to speak without regard to the fifteen minutes' rule.

E. H. Myers offered the following substitute:

1. That in the judgment of this General Conference, our entire field of labor ought to be divided into Episcopal Districts, each District comprising—Annual Conferences, the number being determined by the number of Presiding Elders' Districts within their bounds, the extent of the territory embraced, and the facilities of travel.

2. That the number of Bishops ought to be increased, until there is an effective Bishop for each Episcopal District.

3. That each Bishop ought to reside within the bounds of his District, or immediately adjacent thereto; that he should be assigned to the District for four years, at the end of which time, in order to keep up our "Itinerant General Superintendency," he should be liable to removal to another District by the General Conference. He should also report to each Conference annually the state of the Church and his labors for the year in that Conference, which report should be entered in the journal.

Pending its discussion, the session was prolonged, and J. C. Keener was allowed to finish his speech without regard to the fifteen minutes' rule.

The first item of the substitute was rejected by a vote of 54 to 86.

The first resolution of the Report was adopted.

The number 6 in the second resolution was substituted by 4, by a vote of 84—13 having voted for 10; 12 for 7; 53 for 5.

The Report as a whole was then adopted, as follows:—

The Committee on Episcopacy beg leave respectfully to present the following as their Report No. 1:

Deeply impressed with the importance to the Church of more frequent and regular Episcopal visitations through all parts of our wide-spread Connection, and particularly in the time through which we are now passing, the committee have sought earnestly to devise a scheme which might effectually secure this very desirable end. The task would have been comparatively easy, if the committee had been persuaded that in the present circumstances of the Church, the policy of so multiplying Bishops as to furnish one for every Conference, or even every State, would meet with general favor. Believing otherwise, however, their deliberations have led them to propose no material modifications of the plan now laid down in the Book of Discipline. Nevertheless, they are so fully convinced that the presence and continued supervision of a Bishop in the Pacific and Columbia Conferences are indispensable to the well-being and steady development of the Church in that distant, but important and promising part of the Connection, that they earnestly recommend to the College of Bishops the selection and appointment of one of their number to that field of labor for the next four years.

The following resolutions are recommended to the General Conference for their adoption:

Resolved, 1. That the following be incorporated in the Book of Discipline, to take the place of Item 11, under Question 3d, Section 5, page 63:

“To travel during the year, as far as practicable, through the Presiding Elders' Districts of each Annual Conference which may be included in his Episcopal District, in order to preach, and to oversee the spiritual and temporal affairs of the Church.”

Resolved, 2. That the Episcopal College be strengthened by the election of four additional Bishops.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

W. M. WIGHTMAN, Chairman.

New Orleans, April 13, 1866.

The Conference then adjourned with the benediction by the Bishop.

Wednesday Afternoon, April 25, 1866.

Conference met according to adjournment, Bishop Pierce in the chair. J. Hamilton led in prayer.

The Minutes were read and approved.

Albert H. Redford, Thos. W. Derman, and Alex. L. P. Green were severally put in nomination for Book Agent.

On motion of B. Craven, Conference agreed to elect Bishops, Book Agent, Editor, and other General Conference officers, to-morrow at 10 o'clock, after an hour spent in prayer.

J. E. Evans, chairman of the Committee on the Religious Interests of the Colored People, submitted Report No. 4 of that committee, which was read and adopted, as follows:—

The Committee on the Religious Interests of the Colored People submit Report No. 4.

We recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

1st. *Resolved*, That in order to promote union and harmony among the colored people, our Bishops be, and they are hereby, authorized to confer with the Bishops of the African M. E. Church as to the propriety of a union of that Church with the M. E. Church, South, upon the basis of the plan adopted by this General Conference, for a separate organization for the colored people; and that they report the result to the next General Conference for their action.

2d. *Resolved*, That wherever entire churches and congregations shall have voluntarily left us, and united with the African M. E. Church, the Trustees be, and they are hereby, advised to allow them the use of the houses of worship heretofore solely occupied by them, as before they left our Church.

3d. *Resolved*, That the Secretary be, and he is hereby, instructed to furnish the delegates of the African M. E. Church to this Conference with a certified copy of the entire action of the Conference in reference to the colored people; and also in reference to fraternal relations with that Church.

Respectfully submitted.

J. E. EVANS, Chairman.

Report No. 1 of the Committee on Changes of Economy, relating to the change of the name of the Church, was called up, and read; also the substitute of J. B. McFerrin and W. Mooney.

The substitute was withdrawn, and J. B. McFerrin and C. F. Deems offered a substitute, proposing "Episcopal Methodist" as the name of the Church.

Pending the discussion of this subject, Conference adjourned with the benediction by the Bishop.

Thursday Morning, April 26, 1866.

Conference met at the stated hour, Bishop Pierce in the chair. The venerable Lovick Pierce conducted the opening services.

The Minutes were read and approved.

The Bishop announced the reception of a telegraphic dispatch, stating that Dr. Boring, son of Jesse Boring, of this Conference, was mortally wounded by a railroad accident. The sympathy of the Conference was expressed in the devotions which preceded the elections. Bishop Early conducted the exercises; J. E. Evans, T. W. Dorman, and H. A. C. Walker leading in prayer.

The Conference then proceeded to the election of four Bishops, by ballot. B. Craven and J. E. Edwards collected the ballots.

On the first balloting 144 votes were cast, of which number W. M. Wightman received 75; E. M. Marvin, 73; J. B. McFerrin, 45; E. W. Schon, 44; H. N. McTyeire, 43; D. S. Doggett, 43; J. A. Duncan, 37; E. E. Wiley, 24; T. O. Summers, 20; J. Boring, 16; C. F. Deems, 14; S. Register, 10; A. L. P. Green, 9; James E. Evans, 8; B. Craven, 8; F. A. Morris, 7; S. S. Roszel, 7; J. Hamilton, 7; J. H. Linn, 6; A. Hunter, 5; D. R. McAnally, 5; L. D. Huston, 3; W. H. Anderson, 3; W. A. Smith, 2; O. P. Fitzgerald, 2; R. Alexander, 2; L. M. Lee, 2; J. Anderson, 2; T. B. Sargent, E. H. Myers, W. Smith, A. Monroe, S. Watson, J. C. Granberry, J. M. P. Hickerson, J. M. Steele, C. K. Marshall, 1 each. As 73 votes were necessary for election, William M. Wightman and Enoch M. Marvin were declared duly elected Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

On the second balloting D. S. Doggett received 57 votes; H. N. McTyeire, 56; J. B. McFerrin, 44; J. C. Keener, 44; E. W. Schon, 38; J. A. Duncan, 23; E. E. Wiley, 6; C. F. Deems, 5; Thos. O. Summers, 5; Jesse Boring, 4; F. A. Morris, R. Alexander, J. M. P. Hickerson, B. Craven, J. Hamilton, N. Head, A. L. P. Green, 1 each. As 145 votes were cast, there was no election.

On the third balloting D. S. Doggett received 80 votes; H. N. McTyeire, 75; J. B. McFerrin, 43; J. C. Keener, 43; J. A. Duncan, 8; J. M. P. Hickerson, 2; E. E. Wiley, J. Hamilton, J. H. Linn, C. F. Deems, N. Head, T. O. Summers, 1 each. As 72 votes were necessary to election, David S. Doggett and Holland N. McTyeire were declared duly elected Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

The Conference then proceeded to elect a Book Agent, by ballot: 134

votes were cast, of which number A. H. Redford received 100; E. R. Veitch, 20; J. W. Whipple, 7; R. J. Harp, 4; J. B. McFerrin, H. H. Montgomery, and A. L. P. Green, 1 each. Whereupon, Albert H Redford was declared duly elected Book Agent of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

The Conference then proceeded to elect a General Editor, by a rising vote. Thos. O. Summers was declared duly elected.

The Book Committee was then elected, as follows: A. L. P. Green, J. B. McFerrin, W. R. Elliston, A. P. McFerrin, Thompson Anderson, E. H. Myers, A. R. Winfield, J. H. Linn, and S. Watson, were declared duly elected members of said committee.

Report No. 1 of the Committee on Missions was then taken up, and the blank was filled by Nashville, and John B. McFerrin was elected Secretary of the Domestic Board of Missions.

The Board was constituted by election, as follows: A. L. P. Green, D. D., President; L. M. Lee, D.D., 1st Vice-President; B. Craven, D.D., 2d Vice-President; Rev. A. P. McFerrin, Treasurer; Rev. John F. Hughes, W. H. Anderson, D.D., Rev. W. C. Johnson, R. A. Young, D. D., S. D. Baldwin, D.D., Rev. John Morrow, W. T. Gates, W. H. Morgan, M.D., and Irby Morgan, Managers.

The Conference proceeded to elect Editors of Conference Papers. Isaac G. John was elected Editor of the Texas Christian Advocate; W. C. Johnson, of the Memphis and Arkansas Christian Advocate; D. R. McAnally, of the St. Louis Christian Advocate; J. E. Cobb, Arkansas Christian Advocate; E. H. Myers, Southern Christian Advocate; O. P. Fitzgerald, Christian Spectator, in San Francisco.

Report No. 1 of the Committee on Changes of Economy was called up.

E. H. Myers offered a substitute, proposing "Methodist Church" as the name of the Church.

After considerable discussion, the vote was ordered to be taken, without further debate.

The Conference then adjourned with the benediction by the Bishop.

Friday Morning, April 27, 1866.

Conference met at the stated hour, Bishop Early in the chair. Religious services were conducted by R. Alexander.

The Minutes were read, corrected, and approved.

Bishop Kavanaugh took the chair.

L. M. Lee, chairman of the Committee on Itinerancy, submitted Report No. 5 of that committee, recommending the restoration of the Rev. W. F. Parker, located in his absence by the Holston Conference,

which was read, amended by the substitution of "informal" for "illegal," and after considerable discussion, was not adopted.

A communication from Mrs. E. J. Ellis, in behalf of the ladies of the Methodist Churches in New Orleans, inviting the Conference to an entertainment on Saturday at one o'clock, in the City Park, was received, read, and the invitation gratefully accepted by a rising vote.

L. M. Lee, chairman of the Committee on Itinerancy, submitted Report No. 6 of that committee, which was read and adopted, as follows:—

The Committee on Itinerancy, in examining the records of the Annual Conferences, find in several cases, in various Conferences, that the usage and law of the Church, limiting the term of pastoral service to the period of two years and of Presiding Elders for four years, was departed from by several of the Bishops; and believing that the departure was an exigence of necessity growing out of the state of the Church under the pressure and disabilities of the war—that for said departure no blame can really attach to the Bishops—respectfully recommend the General Conference to adopt the following resolution, as covering all the facts of the kind, and legalizing all the acts of Episcopal administration in the premises:

Resolved, That in view of the disturbed state of the Church, and the great difficulties in the way of the removal and comfortable maintenance of our ministers, in many parts of the Church during the late war, the act of the Bishops in continuing ministers more than two years and Presiding Elders more than four years in an appointment, is recognized as a necessity, and approved as a prudential arrangement for the times.

L. M. LEE, Chairman.

The following resolution was then adopted:—

Resolved, That authority be given to the Virginia Annual Conference, in the interval of the General Conference, to divide itself, if, in the judgment of the said Conference, it shall be deemed proper or necessary to do so.

L. M. LEE,

For the Virginia Conference Delegation.

Thomas O. Summers, chairman of the Committee on Revisal, submitted Report No. 7 of that committee, which was read and laid on the table under the rule.

The order of the day being suspended to allow of the presentation of Reports, W. A. Smith, chairman of the Committee on the Support of the Ministry, submitted Reports Nos. 1 and 2 of said committee, which were read and laid on the table under the rule.

D. S. Doggett, chairman of the Committee on Education, submitted

a Report of that committee, which was read and laid on the table under the rule.

The Report of the Committee on Sunday-schools was taken up, amended, and adopted, as follows:—

REPORT ON SUNDAY-SCHOOLS.

The Committee on Sunday-schools respectfully submit the following report:

The Sunday-school cause has gradually grown up into a great and powerful institution; and, with its progressive development, has become more and more intimately blended and interwoven with the vital interests of the Church. Starting, originally, with the design, mainly, of teaching the poor and ignorant children of the land a knowledge of letters, the movement has, by silent gradations, expanded into a system of invaluable agencies in the hands of the Church, and has so incorporated itself with the various schemes and methods for the moral and religious culture of the young, as to have become, almost, an integral part and parcel of the visible embodiment of the Church itself. It is, at least, so closely allied to, and identified with the Church, as to have become, in a sense, inseparable from it; and, so far as we can now foresee, it is henceforth indispensable as an instrument and agency to the growing efficiency, permanency, and prosperity of the Church of Jesus Christ in the world.

Sabbath-schools, as to their objects and design, as indicated above, have passed through various modifications, until now, in the estimation of the Church generally, the preëminent object is, the conversion of the children to God. It is so to tutor them "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord;" so to preëccupy the youthful mind and heart with the lessons of religious truth, and so to imbed the Word of God in their memories, by catechetical and oral instruction, as to furnish a reasonable warrant that the seeds of grace thus early planted will spring up in the morning and freshness of existence, and produce, in after years, an abundant harvest to the honor and glory of God. Such, in our estimation, are the prime objects contemplated by the Sabbath-school cause. In this view of the subject, the material for the future membership of the Church, especially in the older and more settled portions of the country, is now collected, and collecting, in our Sabbath-schools. The boundaries of the Sunday-school of any particular pastoral charge, pretty sharply define the limits of the congregation; so that, in looking over the Sabbath-schools under the patronage and tuition of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, we can see, at a glance, who are to take the burdens, and bear the responsibilities of the Church, when we shall resign these sacred obligations and trusts to those who are now treading so closely on our heels, and who

shall so soon take our places in the various spheres occupied by us in pushing the Church onward to its grand consummation in the world. Contemplated in this light, the Sunday-school cause assumes imposing and gigantic proportions. It is found to sustain an intimate relationship to the great system of agencies and instrumentalities put into operation by the great Head of the Church for the establishment of His kingdom upon the earth. The true policy of the Church lies in the sphere of its duty to the oncoming generation. Considered in the light of a nursery, the young and tender scions are taking root, springing up, and expanding in the Sunday-school, which are to be transplanted within the enclosure of the Church. What the scions are, in a qualified sense, the fruit-bearing trees will be.

Since the subject of the relation of *baptized children* to the Church has been referred to a special committee, with instructions to report to this Conference, we deem it unadvisable to make any further allusion to that aspect of the question, other than to say that, in our opinion, *all* children, irrespective of baptism, sustain such a relation to the great Christian Commonwealth, as imposes upon the Church, having the oversight of them, the solemn obligation of so providing for their religious instruction and moral training, as shall best serve to fit them for the most extensive usefulness in the Church.

Your committee decline taking any action on the resolution referred to their consideration, asking for such a change in the constitution of "the Sunday-school Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South," as shall, in the language of the resolution, "identify the Sunday-school interest of the Church as one of the essential elements of the Church itself, rather than as a distinct and independent society of the Church." The Sunday-school *itself*, we cheerfully concede, is nearly allied to the Church; is an adjunct and auxiliary of the Church; is an "essential element," or, perhaps, more properly speaking, an important agency in building up the Church; is indispensable, in the present condition of things, as a part of the machinery of the Church, but cannot be regarded as an "essential element" of the Church itself; much less can we regard "the Sunday-school Society of the M. E. Church, South," as an "essential element of the Church itself." As at present advised, we would rather prefer to see "the Sunday-school Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South," under its present organization, totally abolished as an institution of the Church. In our judgment, it is practically inefficient. It is too unwieldy. It stands out in huge, skeleton proportions, but is without sinews, and muscle, and life. It is an inert, inoperative, and cumbersome piece of machinery, with an imposing array of names

and officers connected with it; but is wholly useless, or nearly so, as to any practical good which it is capable of performing. What good has it done? What can it do?

Your committee recommend, by such agency as the General Conference may appoint, the preparation of a suitable *Ritual* for the worship of our Sabbath-schools. An appropriate religious service with which to open and close the exercises of the Sunday-school would promote *uniformity*, which is very much to be desired, and, at the same time, exert a salutary moral and religious influence upon the scholars and others connected with the school. We sincerely hope it may be the pleasure of the General Conference to provide for the publication of such a Ritual, at the earliest practicable period, to be used by such schools as may choose to adopt it.

The subject of providing a catechism "for the use of our Sunday-schools, and for the children of the Church, instructing them in the doctrines and economy of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South," as brought to our consideration by a resolution referred to the committee, has engaged our most earnest and patient attention and deliberation. After a full interchange of views upon the subject, the committee concur in the opinion that a *series* of catechisms, embracing the whole ground alluded to in the resolution, is urgently and imperatively demanded by the wants of the Church. We deeply deplore the palpable and humiliating ignorance that prevails among Methodists in relation to the doctrines, no less than in reference to the economy, polity, and government of our Church; and it occurs to your committee that there is no plan of correcting the evil alluded to, if such we may denominate it, that is at once so feasible, practicable, and available, as that of publishing a series of three or four catechisms, for the use of the children of the Church, covering in a compact and intelligible form the ground indicated by the resolution which we have had under consideration. The series should commence with a small catechism suited to the comprehension of mere beginners, to be used for oral instruction, where the children are incapable of reading for themselves; and then advance in regular progression, after the order of the various series of school-books in common use, rising from simple facts and truths apprehensible by the infantile mind, to a more enlarged and comprehensive statement of the leading incidents in Bible history; and so on, by a well-adapted gradation, to a statement of the great fundamental doctrines of the Scriptures, giving especial prominence to all that is distinctive of Wesleyan theology, with a marginal reference to or a quotation in full of one or more direct proof-texts in confirmation and support of the doctrine. The last of the series should comprehend, in compact form, a statement of the leading features

(without entering too much into minute detail) of our Church government, usages, and economy; so as, at least, to give the children of the Church an outline view of the theory and practical working of Methodist Church polity and general economy. We should not shrink from the *sectarian* aspects of this subject. The time has fully come when this whole question should be fairly met. The issue is made up for us, in relation to this matter, by the oral and catechetical instruction of other denominations. We shall but occupy a common ground with other Churches on this subject, by introducing into our families and Sunday-schools such a series of catechisms as shall indoctrinate the children under our religious tuition in *Wesleyan theology*, as set forth by our standards, and instruct them in relation to the peculiar and distinctive features of our Church government, usages, and economy.

The committee are unanimous in the opinion that the "Sunday-school Visitor," or some other similar paper, taking its place, published under the sanction of the General Conference, should immediately be issued for the use of our Sunday-schools throughout the whole domain of Southern Methodism. It is believed that such a patronage may be secured for a well-conducted Sunday-school paper, as will enable the publishing agency of the Church to issue it semi-monthly, and at a price fairly competing with other similar publications in this country. In any event, the paper is needed, and will exclude from our Sunday-schools other periodicals not bearing our imprint; and, at the same time, will supply a medium of saying a thousand things to the children of the Church which cannot so well be said in any other way, nor be so extensively spread before the youth of the Church as through the columns of an attractive and instructive weekly or semi-monthly paper.

The committee would call the attention of the General Conference to our catalogue of Sunday-school books, with the hope that such publications as have proved unsaleable may be stricken from the catalogue, and that for the present, only such books shall be republished as are known from past experience to be in demand. Suitable premiums should be offered for books or catechisms on given subjects, and the merits of a work in manuscript should be settled by a competent committee, before the premium is awarded, or the manuscript accepted for publication. A stimulus should be thus applied to bring out the writing ability of our Church. We need fresh, earnest books, written by our *own people*—something that will interest and instruct the youthful reader.

The resolution turned over to the committee, with *instructions* to "report a plan" by which Sabbath-school children shall be taught sacred music, with a view to their participation in the public singing of the con-

gregation, imposes a duty that we do not feel prepared to perform. The committee heartily concur in the *end* proposed, but think it better simply to recommend that such instruction *should be given*, leaving it to the officers of each school to adopt such measures for the instruction of the children in singing as, in their judgment, shall be deemed most advisable.

We cannot conclude our Report without, at least, an incidental reference to one other aspect of the subject which has engaged our attention, and which has awakened a painful solicitude in our minds. We refer to the fact, that it is seriously apprehended, from a pretty broad survey of this subject, that the *fathers and mothers* in the Church have felt themselves measurably released from the obligations and duty of attending, personally, to the religious training of their children by turning them over to the Sabbath-school. Parents owe to their children a duty, on this score, that can never be transferred to others; and we call the attention of the General Conference to this subject with the hope that some measures may be devised, either through a pastoral address, or by some other method, by which parents may have their consciences fully aroused to a sense of their personal obligations to attend to the religious instruction of their children; and by which, also, a more hearty coöperation may be secured on the part of the older members of the Church, in sustaining Sunday-schools in the various localities and pastoral charges now and henceforth to be under the patronage and supervision of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

All the memorials, resolutions, and other papers which it has been the pleasure of the Conference to refer to the Standing Committee on Sunday-schools, have received a patient and respectful attention. Some subjects have not been formally alluded to in this Report, for the reason that they were known to be in the hands of other committees.

We heartily and sincerely wish that the General Conference, in its deliberative and representative character, were in circumstances to devote that portion of time, and that measure of consideration, to the Sabbath-school interests of the Church, which the obvious and acknowledged importance of the subject demands. Without any apology for the length of our Report, and deeply regretting that it is so meager and defective, and that it falls so far short of our own conceptions of the magnitude of the cause and its vital connection with the highest interests of the Church, both present and prospective, we conclude by submitting the following resolutions for the adoption of the General Conference, viz:—

1. *Resolved by the Delegates of the Annual Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in General Conference assembled, That the association known as "The Sunday-school Society of the Methodist Epis-*

copal Church, South," be, and the same is hereby, abolished; and that the Book Editor be directed to strike from the Discipline all that in any way relates to this society; and that the Annual Conferences, by such agencies as they may severally adopt, shall collect and forward funds to the Book Agent, to be employed by him as a special fund, and for no other purpose, in enriching, illustrating, cheapening, and rendering attractive our Sunday-school publications.

2. That we approve of the use of a suitable and appropriate Liturgical Service in the opening and closing religious exercises of our Sunday-schools, and hereby appoint Bishop Andrew, W. M. Wightman, and T. O. Summers, to prepare a Ritual, containing such a service, which, after receiving the approval of our Bishops, shall be published, and recommended for the use of our Sunday-schools generally, without being made positively obligatory upon any.

3. That the General Conference sanctions the publication of a regular progressive series of catechisms, graduated to the several stages of the learners, from comparative infancy up to the highest classes in our Sabbath-schools, setting forth, in compact form, the facts, history, and doctrines of the Scriptures; and, in the more advanced numbers of the series, giving especial prominence to the distinctive doctrines of *Wesleyan theology*, according to our best and most authoritative standards, sustained by direct, scriptural proofs, the series closing with a separate number, defining and explaining the leading features of the government, usages, and economy of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South; and the Conference hereby appoints Thomas O. Summers a committee to prepare such a series of catechisms, at the earliest practicable period, authorizing the aforesaid committee to offer a premium of such a sum as may be agreed upon, to be paid out of the sales of Sunday-school books, for the best series, or any one of the series, so as to secure the highest standard of attainable excellence in the series; which catechisms, thus prepared, after receiving the sanction and approval of our Bishops, shall be published and recommended to the careful study of our Sunday-school scholars, and the children of the Church generally.

4. That "The Sunday-school Visitor" be forthwith resuscitated; and that all our preachers, and the superintendents of Sabbath-schools be, and they are hereby, instructed to use diligent efforts to introduce it at once into all our Sunday-schools.

5. That the children in our Sunday-schools shall be taught *sacred music* as a part of their regular instruction, with a view to their participating in the singing of the congregation in public worship; and that the Book Editor be required, by competent authority, to prepare a music

book for this purpose; and that the General Conference hereby imposes it, as a duty, upon the officers of our Sunday-schools, in every place, to adopt such measures as in their judgment may seem best, to provide for this department of instruction.

6. That the Book Editor be required carefully to examine our whole catalogue of Sunday-school books, with a view to the suppression of all unsaleable works, and all such as are ill-adapted to Sunday-school library purposes; and that he be further required, by the employment of his best skill, to make such additions, from time to time, and such only, as shall promise to enhance the real value and increase the attractiveness of our Sunday-school libraries; and that he be authorized, to the largest extent warranted by the means at his command, to engage the very best artistic skill in the illustration and embellishment of our Sunday-school publications, so as to make them attractive and fascinating to youthful readers.

7. That the General Conference, in the most solemn manner, hereby urges upon the fathers and mothers in the Church the duty of personal attention to the religious instruction of their own children, and to a hearty coöperation with the Sunday-schools of the Church, with the design of raising up the children of Methodist parentage, and the children committed to our Sabbath-school instruction, in the knowledge and fear of God, and with a view to their early conversion and reception into full fellowship in the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

J. E. EDWARDS, Chairman.

A motion of S. Register, chairman of the Committee on Infant Church Membership, to have leave to withdraw the Report of that committee, was laid on the table.

The subject on which the Conference adjourned on yesterday was taken up, and the substitute of J. B. McFerrin and C. F. Deems being withdrawn, the motion to change the name of the Church was adopted.

The session was prolonged to finish this question. The second resolution of the Committee on Changes of Economy was taken up, and a substitute of J. B. McFerrin and C. F. Deems was then offered and adopted by a vote of 109 to 22.

Various names were then proposed to fill the blank, and were voted for in succession:—For "The Methodist Church" 45 votes were given; "Methodist Episcopal Church in America," 11; "Southern Methodist Episcopal Church," 2; "Southern Methodist Church," 1; "Wesleyan Episcopal Church," 1; "United Methodist Church," none; "Episcopal Methodist Church," 52; "Methodist Episcopal Church," 4; "Methodist Church, South," 9. As no name obtained a three-fourths vote, the vote was then taken again on the three highest, and "Method-

ist Episcopal Church in America" received 15 votes; "Methodist Church" 59; "Episcopal Methodist Church" 52. As no name obtained the requisite number, the vote was taken again on the two highest, whereupon "Episcopal Methodist Church" obtained 59, and "The Methodist Church" 71. There being not yet the requisite majority, on motion of J. B. McFerrin, the vote was taken on "The Methodist Church," and stood 111 to 21. Pending the further discussion of the substitute, Conference adjourned with the benediction by the Bishop.

Friday Evening, April 27, 1866.

Conference met according to adjournment, Bishop Kavanaugh in the chair. Religious services were conducted by T. L. Boswell.

The Minutes were read and approved.

Bishop Early took the chair.

The preamble to the substitute, which was before the Conference at adjournment, was then taken up, amended, and adopted.

After considerable discussion of a motion to adopt the Report, as a whole, on motion of W. W. Bennett, the Report was reconsidered, so far as the name was concerned.

W. W. Bennett proposed the name "Episcopal Methodist Church," and L. M. Lee the name "Methodist Episcopal Church." The latter motion was lost, and the name "Episcopal Methodist Church" was adopted.

On motion, the Report, as a whole, was adopted by ayes and noes, as follows:—

Ayes—Register, Martin, Veitch, Roszel, Eggleston, Doggett, W. A. Smith, Bennett, Edwards, Granberry, Deems, Burkhead, Moran, H. A. C. Walker, Boyd, Stacy, Fleming, Kelly, Evans, Myers, Mann, Key, Crumley, Potter, Branham, Parks, J. B. Smith, J. Anderson, S. P. Richardson, Mills, Woodberry, H. N. McTyeire, Cottrell, Hamilton, Neely, Mitchell, Hargrove, Dorman, Harp, Linfield, J. G. Jones, Montgomery, MacLennan, C. K. Marshall, H. F. Johnson, Bynum, McFerrin, Green, Young, Riggs, West, J. F. Hughes, Mooney, Burr, Wiley, Cunningham, J. S. Kennedy, Linn, Schon, Hiner, Rand, Peery, Pinckard, Rush, Hunter, Harrell, Carr, W. H. Hughes, Tullis, Dennis, Binckley, McKenzie, Alexander, Lambdin, Stamford, Davidson, John, Whipple, Seat, Gober, Fitzgerald—86.

Noes—L. M. Lee, Peterson, Rosser, Hargiss, W. Kennedy, Craven, Bobbitt, N. H. D. Wilson, W. Smith, S. H. Browne, Betts, Anthony, Elison, McCarty, Ross, Andrews, Summers, Keener, Parker, J. B. Walker, Watkins, B. Jones, Harrington, Mullins, Hanner, S. D. Baldwin, E.

Johnson, Huston, McAnally, Morris, Winton, Monroe, Vandeventer, Spencer, E. T. Jones, Ratcliffe, Cobb, Winfield—38.

After the announcement of the vote, Conference adjourned with the benediction by the Bishop.

Saturday Morning, April 28, 1866.

Conference met at the stated hour, Bishop Early in the chair. Religious services were conducted by W. R. Branham.

The Minutes were read and approved.

Bishop Paine took the chair.

Report No. 1 of the Committee on Missions was called up.

Baltimore, Richmond, and New Orleans, were severally nominated to fill the blank in Article 11 of the Constitution of the Foreign Board. It was filled with Baltimore, by a vote of 104.

The names of E. W. Sehon and John Poisal were severally nominated as Secretary for the Foreign Board.

Conference proceeded to ballot for Secretary: 133 votes were cast, of which number E. W. Sehon received 95 votes; John Poisal, 37; C. K. Marshall, 1. E. W. Sehon was accordingly pronounced Secretary of the Foreign Board of Missions.

Report No. 1 of the Committee on Boundaries was taken up, and, on motion of J. Anderson, the second item was amended by adding, "when the Georgia Conference shall have divided." The Report, thus amended, was adopted, as follows:—

The Committee on Boundaries beg leave to offer Report No. 1.

The committee have had under consideration the resolutions of the Georgia Conference, and recommend:

1. That that Conference have permission to divide, at such time as it may deem best.

2. That that portion of the territory of the State of Georgia, now embraced in the Florida Conference, be receded to the Georgia Conference, when the Georgia Conference shall have divided.

The committee have also had under consideration the memorial from the preachers of the Kansas Mission Conference, and recommend that their prayer be granted, viz: that that portion of the territory of said Conference lying South of the Kansas River, be added to the St. Louis Conference; and that the remainder of the territory of the first-named Conference be embraced in the limits of the Missouri Conference.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. HAMILTON, Chairman.

April 10, 1866.

The following members recorded their votes on the adoption of the substitute, concerning the name of the Church :—

Ayes—N. Wilson, Head, Shipp, Lovick Pierce, Glenn, Atkins, N. H. Lee, Prottsman, Brooks, Veal.

Noes—Blue, G. Jones, W. H. Anderson, Steel, Redford, Duncan, Wightman, J. M. McTeer, J. M. P. Hickerson.

Report No. 2 of the Committee on Boundaries was called up, amended, and adopted, as follows :—

The Committee on Boundaries beg leave to offer Report No. 2.

Your committee have considered the memorial of the Pacific Conference, asking a division of their territory, and recommend the General Conference to take the following action, viz :

That the territory embraced in the Oregon, Jacksonville, and Idaho Districts be cut off from the Pacific Conference, and erected into a separate Annual Conference.

That this new Conference be known as the Columbia Conference.

Upon the request of the Delegates of the East Texas Conference, we recommend that that Conference have permission to divide at such time as it shall deem best.

After due consideration of the condition and interests of all concerned, your committee recommend that the following line be established between the Texas and Rio Grande Conferences : It shall begin at the mouth of the Trespalacios, running up that stream until it intersects the county-line of Wharton county ; thence to the south-west corner of said county ; thence along the east line of Jackson, Lavacca, Gonzales, Caldwell, and Hays counties, till it intersect the line of the North-west Texas Conference on the Perdenales.

J. HAMILTON, Chairman.

Report No. 3 of the same committee was then called up. A motion of H. H. Montgomery to amend the first item by striking out the word "not," was laid on the table, and the item was adopted.

Pending action on the second item, Conference adjourned with the benediction by the Bishop, to attend the entertainment to which they had been invited by the ladies of New Orleans.

ORDINATION

OF

BISHOPS WIGHTMAN, MARVIN, DOGGETT, AND M'TYEIRE.

The Ordination of WILLIAM MAY WIGHTMAN, ENOCH MATHER MARVIN, DAVID SETH DOGGETT, and HOLLAND NIMMONS MCTYEIRE, as Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, took place in the Carondelet Street Church, New Orleans, on Sunday, April 29, 1866.

The Ordination Sermon was preached by the venerable Lovick Pierce, on 2 Corinthians xi. 28. The Collect was read by Bishop Andrew, the Epistle by Bishop Paine, and the Gospel by Bishop Early.

W. M. Wightman was presented by Thomas O. Summers and H. A. C. Walker; E. M. Marvin by A. Monroe and W. M. Rush; D. S. Doggett by L. M. Lee and N. Head; and H. N. McTyeire by J. C. Keener and O. R. Blue.

Bishop Andrew proceeded with the service—all the Bishops united in the laying on of hands. The two Elders presenting assisted in the case of the Bishops elect severally presented by them. The service following the presentation of the Bible was performed by Bishops Kavanaugh and Pierce.

Monday Morning, April 30, 1866.

Conference met at the stated hour, Bishop Andrew in the chair. Religious services were conducted by J. E. Evans.

The Minutes were read and approved.

B. Jones and S. Anthony asked and obtained leave to change their votes from noes to ayes on the question of the name of the Church.

C. C. Calloway, Reserve Delegate of the Mobile Conference, presented his voucher of election, and took his seat, vice W. M. Wightman, ordained Bishop on yesterday.

The following resolution was then adopted :—

Resolved, That the entire German work in Texas shall be connected with the Texas Conference, and the chairman of the Committee on Missions is requested to address them in answer to their memorial.

R. ALEXANDER,

I. G. JOHN.

Bishop Pierce took the chair.

Reports Nos. 3, 4, and 5 of the Committee on Boundaries, were then taken up and adopted, as follows :—

The Committee on Boundaries beg leave to offer Report No. 3 :—

The committee have had under consideration the resolution of the Mississippi Conference, asking such a change of boundary as will give that Conference that part of the territory of the State of Mississippi now embraced in the limits of the Mobile Conference, and recommend that the request of that Conference be *not* granted.

They have also considered the request of the Delegates of the Arkansas Conference, that the Arkansas River be made the boundary line between the Wachita and Arkansas Conferences, and recommend that their request be *not* granted.

The committee recommend to the General Conference the passage of the following resolution :

Resolved, That as the geographical line defining the territorial limits of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, established by the General Conference of 1844, has been officially and practically repudiated, and disregarded by the Methodist Episcopal Church, therefore we are bound, neither legally nor morally, by it; and that we feel ourselves at liberty to extend our ministrations and ecclesiastical jurisdiction to all beyond that line, who may desire us so to do.

J. HAMILTON, Chairman.

New Orleans, April 14, 1866.

The Committee on Boundaries beg leave to offer Report No. 4 :—

The committee have had before them the memorial of the German

ministers in Texas, setting forth their condition and wants; and we learn from that, and from other sources, that while they have suffered in common with the rest of the country, they have labored under some peculiar disadvantages and trials. Efforts have been made in certain quarters to induce them to leave the Church, but they continue loyal. They ask for aid in various forms, which your committee hope will be granted.

We recommend to the General Conference the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That this General Conference has heard with lively satisfaction of the fidelity of our German brethren in Texas to the Church, in a time of temptation, and of the devotion and zeal of the ministry to their work, amid sacrifices and trouble, and we tender them our sympathy and promise them our fostering care, and all the material aid in our power.

2. Your committee have also had before them the resolutions of the Delegates of the Kentucky, Louisville, and St. Louis Conferences, asking authority to annex territory in Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, to their respective Conferences, and recommend the following resolution for adoption:

Resolved, That such Churches or societies as are now or may hereafter be organized in sections of the country not now under our ecclesiastical jurisdiction, and which wish to be united with us in Church-fellowship, may be connected with the Conference most convenient to them; and that the Bishops be authorized and requested to form such Churches into separate Annual Conferences whenever in their judgment the interests of the work demand such action.

J. HAMILTON, Chairman.

April 16, 1866.

The Committee on Boundaries beg leave to offer their Report No. 5:—

The committee have had before them the resolution of the Texas Conference, asking the General Conference to divide its territory by the following line, viz: commence at the south-east corner of Leon county on the Trinity River; thence west along the south line of Leon, Robinson, and Milam, to the eastern corner of Travis county; thence along the south line of Williamson county to its south-west corner; thence by a direct line to the mouth of the Perdenales; thence up that stream until it intersects the boundary line of the Rio Grande Conference.

Your committee recommend that their request be granted, and the new Conference be known as the North-west Texas Conference.

2. Your committee have also carefully considered the conflicting claims of the Baltimore and Western Virginia Conferences, and recommend that

the *original Western* boundary line of the Baltimore Conference be established.

3. Your committee have also patiently heard the representations touching the boundaries of the Baltimore and Virginia Conferences, and recommend that the *original boundary* line of the Baltimore Conference be reestablished, except as to the northern neck of Virginia, which should belong to the Virginia Conference.

The following resolution is recommended for adoption by the General Conference:

Resolved, That the Virginia and Baltimore Conferences have permission to form two or more Annual Conferences out of their territory, between this and the next General Conference, should they deem it necessary.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. HAMILTON, Chairman.

April 21, 1866.

A motion of H. H. Montgomery to adopt the Report of the Minority in regard to the boundaries of the Baltimore and Western Virginia Conferences, was discussed and lost.

A resolution of J. Hamilton and E. H. Myers, and another of W. Harrington and W. H. Watkins, relating to boundaries, were read and laid on the table under the rule.

The Reports on Boundaries were referred back to the committee, that the changes in boundaries may be reported as they are to appear in the Discipline.

On motion of W. P. Ratcliffe, the name of the Wachita Conference was changed to Little Rock.

Reports Nos. 2 and 3 of the Committee on Books, etc., were taken up and adopted, as follows:—

The Committee on Books and Periodicals ask leave to offer Report No. 2.

The Report of C. K. Marshall, Agent for the Church Evangelist, having been sent to this committee, and by them duly considered, they respectfully report that while they regard the matter set forth in the Report of the Agent as one of interest and importance to the whole Church, yet, in view of the present embarrassed condition of the publishing interests of our Church, the committee deem it inexpedient for the Church to engage in such an enterprise at present.

2. In regard to sundry papers sent to this committee referring to the action of a Convention of Preachers held in Louisville, Kentucky, in April, 1864, and to the action of certain Commissioners appointed by that Convention, we respectfully report: That in view of the fact that the

members of that Convention—representing eight Annual Conferences—together with the Commissioners appointed by them, were acting with the sole design to protect and preserve to its lawful owners the property of the Church; and in view of the further fact that the Convention and its Commissioners did much toward the accomplishment of that very desirable end, the committee recommend that the General Conference approve the action and objects of said Convention, and also direct the Agent of our publishing interests to pay the traveling expenses of the Commissioners, and also the fee of the lawyer employed by the said Commissioners.

Respectfully,

D. R. McANALLY, Chairman.

New Orleans, April 16, 1866.

The Committee on Books and Periodicals ask leave to offer their Report No. 3:

1. The communication of R. Smithson, asking for such action on the part of this Conference as may enable the Christian Union Church to avail themselves of the benefit of our Hymn Book, by the alteration of the imprint and preface, after carefully considering the whole subject, the committee recommend that the General Conference grant to the Agent of our publishing interests the privilege of issuing an edition of our Hymn Book bearing the imprint and introduction of the Christian Union Church, with the distinct understanding that the said Agent so contract with the Agents or Representatives of said Christian Union Church as that the rights of our Church shall be duly and properly regarded.

2. In regard to the Book Agent, the committee, after a careful examination of his Report made to this Conference, beg leave to say that said Report, as it embraces the transactions from 1858 to 1862, is complete and satisfactory; while the Report on the transactions of the Publishing House from April, 1862, to April, 1866, owing, as the acting Agent, Rev. R. Abbey, says, to circumstances which he could not control, is unsatisfactory, and the committee recommend that the General Conference appoint the Book Committee to make a settlement with the Rev. Richard Abbey at the earliest period practicable.

D. R. McANALLY, Chairman.

New Orleans, April 17, 1866.

W. A. Smith, chairman of the Committee on Support of the Ministry, submitted Report No. 3 of that committee, which was read and laid on the table under the rule.

Report No. 2 of the Committee on Changes of Economy was called up.

After discussing the first item, relating to the reception of members into the Church, a Special Committee of Five was appointed to report on

this subject. The Bishop announced the following as said committee: D. R. McAnally, A. Hunter, J. S. Key, W. M. Rush, G. W. D. Harris.

Pending the discussion of the item relating to Class-meetings, Conference adjourned with the benediction by the Bishop, to meet this evening at 7 o'clock.

Monday Evening, April 30, 1866.

Conference met according to adjournment, Bishop Pierce in the chair. Religious services were conducted by Whitefoord Smith.

The Minutes were read and approved.

On motion of J. B. McFerrin, the Constitution of the Board of Domestic Missions was amended to allow four Vice-Presidents instead of two, and eleven Managers instead of nine. The two additional Vice-Presidents elected are Thomas O. Summers and A. H. Redford; the two additional Managers, Mortimer Hamilton and George W. Smith.

The Constitution of the Foreign Board was amended in like manner. That Board is constituted as follows:—President, Rev. Samuel Register; Vice-Presidents, A. L. P. Green, D.D., C. F. Deems, D.D., Revs. Nelson Head and S. Samuel Roszel; Secretary, E. W. Schon, D.D., elected by the General Conference; Treasurer, Mr. Wm. B. Smithson; Managers, Rev. Norval Wilson, John Poisal, John S. Martin, Thos. B. Sargent, D.D., N. H. D. Wilson, W. G. E. Cunyngham, Thos. E. Bond, M.D., Mr. John M. Buck, James B. Thomas, Samuel G. Miles, John T. Creighton.

The following resolutions were then offered and adopted by a rising vote:—

Resolved, That the Bishops and the Delegates from the several Annual Conferences, present at the General Conference, do hereby tender the respectful expression of their thanks to the ladies of New Orleans, who, with such painstaking and success, contributed to their pleasure by the entertainment enjoyed by the Conference at the City Park on last Saturday afternoon, an occasion which shall be held in perpetual and pleasant memory.

Resolved, That the Secretary be directed to transmit a copy of these resolutions to the ladies from whom the invitation was received.

CHARLES F. DEEMS,

CHARLES K. MARSHALL.

The subject on which the Conference adjourned this morning was taken up, being Report No. 2 of the Committee on Changes of Economy. Section 2 of the Report was amended and adopted. The Conference then adjourned with the benediction by the Bishop.

Tuesday Morning, May 1, 1866.

Conference met at the stated hour, Bishop Pierce in the chair. Religious services were conducted by G. W. D. Harris.

The Minutes were read and approved.

On motion of A. H. Mitchell, it was resolved that no member shall be allowed to speak more than five minutes at a time without leave of the Conference.

L. M. Lee, chairman of the Committee on Itinerancy, submitted Report No. 7 of that committee, which was read and adopted, as follows:—

REPORT NO. 7 OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITINERANCY.

The Committee on Itinerancy having had the Journals of the several Annual Conferences under their consideration; and having, with much pains, and no small amount of time and labor, as the records extend over a period of eight years, carefully examined the same, both as to the modes of keeping the Journals, and as to the acts and doings of the Conferences respectively, beg leave to state that they find many defects and errors in the manner of keeping those records, which, in their judgment, ought to be corrected, for the sake of historical accuracy and correctness in these important records of the Executive Administration of the Church, as well as for order and regularity in journalizing. In a general report of the Committee on Itinerancy, at the General Conference of 1858, which was approved and ordered to be printed, and copies furnished to the several Annual Conferences for the guidance of their Secretaries, an attempt was made to secure the desirable ends of fullness, accuracy, and uniformity, in these records. But, as if in utter disregard of the advice of the General Conference, some of the records brought here are shamefully inaccurate, and censurably defective. The committee present facts on this subject that need to be corrected, if the requirement to keep a record of the Conferences is to be continued in the Church.

I. DEFECTIVE RECORDS.—*Mississippi Conference*: The Reports of Statistics exceedingly imperfect; and in several instances Reports are said to have been marked A, B, and C, and filed, when they should have been entered on the Journal. *Louisville Conference*: In two instances the presiding officer is not named. Resolutions offered, and Reports of Special Committees referred to, but no record of their character, or as to what was done with them. *Wachita Conference*: Pages of the Journal not numbered, and no margin left. Character passed, and person elected, without saying to what. Resolutions are passed, and filed, but not entered on the Journal. No reports made to the body are recorded. *Memphis Conference*: Notices of resolutions passed, but the resolutions not

entered on the Journals. *Rio Grande Conference*: Frequent omission to report the reading of the Journal. Report of committee read, and not disposed of in any way. At one session, two of the questions of the General Minutes called, and not answered in any way. At another session, four of these questions recorded, and no answers given. Journal generally defective. *Missouri Conference*: Character examined without any statement of the suspension of the rule requiring the doors to be closed. No record of reports on any subject; only the fact stated that reports were made. *Arkansas Conference*: Omission to state the suspension of the rule to sit with closed doors in the examination of character. Frequent omissions to read and approve the record. Imperfect records as to the election of Local Deacons and Elders. Failure to enter the name of the presiding officer. *Western Virginia Conference*: Conference statistics and appointments entered after the session closed, and the Journals were signed. Minutes sadly marred by numerous erasures, interlineations, and expunging lines, and without the signature of the Presiding Bishop. *Pacific Conference*: Two members are reported as tried and expelled; but there is no record of charges, or specifications, or of the proceedings in either case. *Kentucky Conference*: Motions to insert words in resolutions; and neither words nor resolutions given. Records frequently defective and unsatisfactory. *Tennessee Conference*: Complaints against members, involving maladministration and moral character: disposed of in one case by preamble and resolution, others referred to committees; reports presented, but no record of complaints, resolutions, or reports. *Virginia Conference*: Repeated failure to record that the Minutes were read and approved. Journal of 1859 does not state that the Conference fixed the place of its next session. *Holston Conference*: Records censurably defective and erroneous.

II. IMPROPER CONFERENCE ACTION.—*Louisville Conference*: It is stated in the records that a member was suffered to withdraw, with a letter from his Presiding Elder; yet, by subsequent action, it appears that the moral character of the party was implicated at the time he received said letter of withdrawal; also, that the Conference claimed the right of refusing to pass his character, and ordered his name to be stricken from the roll. *Wachita Conference*: W. B. B. was expelled, and the records contain no specifications, and no account of the trial. *Memphis Conference*: An appeal of J. D. M., from a Quarterly Conference, is recorded, and the decision reversed; but there is no statement of the case, as to the charges and specifications, or the grounds of action in the case, in the Journals. *Rio Grande Conference*: Session of 1860—in the absence of a Bishop, an Elder was called to the chair, and not elected to occupy it as

President. *Arkansas Conference*: Session of 1863—two persons were transferred to a distant Conference by the vote of the Conference; at the session of 1865, a member was tried for imprudence, and there is no record of charge, specification, or evidence, on which the Conference acted. *Pacific Conference*: A member, J. G., was convicted of drunkenness and blasphemous language; yet he was acquitted, and his character passed. *Mississippi Conference*: A person (H. C. Buck) continued on trial, his case subsequently reconsidered, and admitted into full connection, without examination on the prescribed course of study, as required by the Discipline. *Virginia Conference*: A minister, local, G. N. W., allowed to withdraw from the Church after confession of crime. At the session of 1864, it appears that the Bishop (Early) being sick, appointed Rev. W. A. Smith as President of the Conference; and that he presided during the session, and signed the Minutes at its close. But the committee cannot reconcile with his presidency the fact that, on page 198, Bishop Early decided an action of the Conference to be a violation of law; nor the fact that Bishop Early reported, through the President, Smith, that he, the Bishop, could not find an appointment for J. P. Brock; and that the Conference, by resolution, requested the Bishop to give Mr. Brock a nominal appointment. It does not seem clear, from the records, which of the two parties was President—whether either was, or whether each by turn, or whether both together made one.

In view of all of these facts, and in order, if possible, to secure uniformity, accuracy, and completeness, in these important Church records, your committee recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

1. *Resolved*, That the Secretaries of the several Annual Conferences be, and they hereby are, instructed to record in their Conference Journals, respectively, all the acts of the Conference, of every kind whatever, in the consecutive order of their occurrence, or in an appendix; especially of all complaints, charges, and specifications, with the decisions in all such cases; and, also, of all resolutions, reports of committees, statistics, memoirs of deceased ministers, and the appointments of preachers, and whatever else enters into and constitutes a complete historical record of each annual session.

2. *Resolved*, That the several Annual Conferences be, and they hereby are, instructed to require their Secretaries to conform their Journals to the plan indicated in the preceding resolution.

3. *Resolved*, That the Bishops be, and they hereby are, instructed to supervise the Conference Journals, to direct the Secretaries to the requirements of the General Conference, as to the manner of keeping their Journals; to supply the Secretaries with copies of their decisions on all ques-

tions of law submitted to them in an Annual Conference ; and to affix their signatures, in all cases, to the Minutes of the Conferences over which they preside.

4. *Resolved*, That the General Book Editor be required to have this report printed, and copies of it sent to each of the Annual Conferences, at their next ensuing sessions.

L. M. LEE, Chairman.

May 1, 1866.

D. R. McAnally, chairman of the Special Committee on the Reception of Members, submitted a Report of that committee, which was read, discussed, and adopted, as a substitute for Section 1 of the Report of the Committee on Changes of Economy. The Report, as a whole, was then adopted, as follows:—

REPORT NO. 2 OF THE COMMITTEE ON CHANGES OF ECONOMY.

The Committee on Changes of Economy beg leave to offer their Report No. 2, embracing the subject of Reception of Members into the Church, with a Form therefor, and giving directions respecting the social Church meetings, viz : Prayer-Meetings, Love-Feasts, Class-Meetings, and a regular meeting proposed to be held monthly, when possible, and at least quarterly, in every congregation of Church-members.

All these subjects have been referred to the committee, in sundry papers from Conferences and individuals, some asking generally for changes, others offering suggestions to shape the action of the Conference, and two papers deprecating any change.

After giving respectful attention to all these papers, the committee present a digest of their labors in a plan, which, beginning with the reception of members into the Church, sets before them their duties and privileges in that relation, and which, therefore, is so adjusted as to its details, as to form, on the whole, a harmonious system.

We may state, briefly, that it guards carefully against admitting improper members into the Church, while it does not exclude from the fold of Christ sincere and steadfast seekers of salvation ; it provides, also, for extending the care of the Church to those who are not ready to take on them the vows of Church-membership, but yet are penitents ; it retains class-meetings without making attendance on them a condition of Church-membership ; it gives more prominence to the prayer-meeting than our system has given it heretofore ; and it provides for regular meetings of the members of the Church quarterly or monthly, when possible, in every congregation, to which meetings a specific work is assigned. It is believed that by these means discipline will be better maintained, and the mem-

bership of the Church awakened to a new life; and a new energy imparted to them, adding greatly to the aggressive force of the Church.

The committee recommend the striking out of the Discipline of Question 1, Answer 1 and 2, Section iii., Chapter 4, (pp. 138, 139), and Section ii., Chapter 3, (pp. 109—114) Part II., and the insertion of the following :

SECTION 1.—*Of the Reception of Members into the Church.*

Question. How shall persons be received into the Church ?

Answer 1. When persons offer themselves for Church-membership, let the preacher in charge inquire into their spiritual condition, and see that they are acquainted with the moral discipline of the Church, and receive them into the Church when they have given satisfactory assurances of their desire to flee from the wrath to come, and be saved from their sins; also of the genuineness of their faith, and of their willingness to keep the rules of the Church.

2. When satisfied on these points, let the preacher bring the candidates before the congregation, whenever practicable, and baptize them, if they have not been baptized; and if they have been, propound to them the questions, and receive the answers contained in the baptismal vow—excepting, of course, the third question and answer—as follows :

Ques. Dost thou renounce the devil and all his works, the vain pomp and glory of the world, with all covetous desires of the same, and the carnal desires of the flesh, so that thou wilt not follow or be led by them ?

Ans. I renounce them all.

Ques. Dost thou believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth ? and in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord ? and that he was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary ? that he suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried ? that he rose again the third day, that he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, and from thence shall come again, at the end of the world, to judge the quick and the dead ?

And dost thou believe in the Holy Ghost, the Church of God, the communion of saints, the remission of sins, the resurrection of the body, and everlasting life after death ?

Ans. All this I steadfastly believe.

Ques. Wilt thou then obediently keep God's holy will and commandments, and walk in the same all the days of thy life ?

Ans. I will endeavor so to do, God being my helper.

3. Persons may be received by certificate from other orthodox Churches without these formalities.

SECTION II.—*Of the Social Church Meetings.*

Question 1. What means shall be adopted to promote personal religion, Christian fellowship, salutary discipline, an interest in all the institutions of the Church and in their support?

Answer. Let every preacher in charge diligently and faithfully observe the following regulations respecting prayer-meetings, love-feasts, class-meetings, and regular Church-meetings.

Ques. 2. What directions are given respecting PRAYER-MEETINGS?

Ans. 1. Let the preacher hold prayer-meetings, weekly, in every Church when it is practicable; and when he cannot himself attend, let him engage local preachers, exhorters, class-leaders, and others to hold them.

2. Let such meetings be held also at all other places in such charge, where there may seem to be a probability of their doing good.

3. It shall be the duty of the members to attend the regular prayer-meetings as frequently as possible.

Ques. 3. What directions are given respecting LOVE-FEASTS?

Ans. 1. Quarterly, or at such other times as the preacher in charge may consider expedient, love-feasts shall be held, with closed doors, to which, besides Church-members, serious persons may be admitted by him.

2. In conducting the love-feast, after singing and prayer, the preacher may make a short address, setting forth the nature and design of this institution; every one present may then partake of a little bread and water in token of brotherly love; the members may then give brief details of their religious experience; and the meeting shall close with singing and prayer.

Ques. 4. What directions are given respecting CLASS-MEETINGS?

Ans. 1. Let the membership of every Church, wherever it is practicable, be divided into classes; and let the members be earnestly advised to attend the class.

2. Let the preacher in charge appoint one person in each class to be the leader thereof.

3. Let the leaders take personal cognizance of all the members of their respective classes, and, if possible, meet them weekly, to inquire of them how their souls prosper, giving them opportunity to speak, and advising, reproving, comforting, and exhorting, as occasion may require. Let the exercises begin and end with singing and prayer.

4. Let the leaders meet the preacher and stewards once a week, whenever practicable, to report the names of any who may be sick or needy, or of any who neglect their duty, or who walk disorderly and will not be reproofed; and to pay the stewards what they may have received in the classes during the preceding week.

5. Two or more classes may meet at the same time and place, at their own option, and their leaders may alternate in conducting the exercises.

6. Let the preacher visit ever class once a quarter, if practicable, and report its condition to the Quarterly Conference; and let him hold general class-meetings as often as he shall find it expedient.

Ques. 5. What directions shall be given respecting the holding of REGULAR CHURCH-MEETINGS?

Ans. 1. All the members of the Church, and resident members of an Annual Conference, shall come together every month, or on circuits at least every three months, at every appointment, to hold a Church-meeting, over which one of the preachers on the charge shall preside. It may be held at any time most convenient for assembling the greatest number of members; but if on the Sabbath, it should not interfere with the morning public worship.

2. A permanent Secretary shall be elected annually, at the first meeting after the session of the Annual Conference. He shall keep a record of the proceedings, and shall keep in a book and return to the Quarterly Conference, of which he may be *ex officio* a member, all the statistics which the Discipline requires to be reported to an Annual Conference.

3. The roll of members shall be called at every meeting, unless otherwise ordered, and the meeting may strike off the names of any who, on account of removal or other cause, have been lost sight of for twelve months: *Provided, however*, that if such member appears and claims membership, he may be restored by a vote of the meeting.

4. The following is suggested as the general

Order of Business for Church-Meetings:

I. Receive Reports—

1st. From the preachers, of their labors since the last meeting.

2d. From the class-leaders.

3d. From the Sunday-schools.

4th. From the steward or stewards of that Church.

II. The preacher shall inquire—

1st. What is doing for the relief of the poor of the Church?

2d. Is the Church here doing its duty for the cause of missions and other Church enterprises, and for the collections ordered by the Annual Conference?

3d. Is the literature of the Church circulated and read?

4th. Can the Church extend its work by establishing additional prayer-meetings, Sunday-schools, or in any other way?

5th. Can any thing more be done to strengthen and build up the Church in the community, and to advance the cause of Christ?

5. If the observance of this order of business is likely to protract the Church-meeting beyond a reasonable limit, the preacher may, from time to time, select the most important matters and bring them forward.

6. Let the Church-meetings be opened and closed with religious services, and conducted in a devout and prayerful spirit.

E. H. MYERS, Chairman.

On motion of W. A. Smith, the form of receiving members presented by P. P. Neely, was ordered to be printed in an Appendix to the Discipline, to be used at the option of the minister.

Report No. 2 of the Committee on Itinerancy was taken up and adopted, as follows :—

REPORT NO. 2 OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITINERANCY.

The Committee on Itinerancy, to whom was referred the memorial from the Louisiana Conference, requesting the General Conference to so amend the Discipline as to require that all votes in a Quarterly Conference to license Preachers, and to recommend Preachers for admission into the traveling connection, or to Deacons' and Elders' orders, shall be taken by ballot; having had the same under consideration, do recommend that the petition be granted, and that the Committee on Revisal be instructed to amend the Discipline accordingly.

LEROY M. LEE, Chairman.

Bishop Andrew took the chair.

Report No 3 of the same committee, referring to the question, "Are there any complaints?" on page 55 of the Discipline, was taken up, discussed, and on motion of J. B. McFerrin, it was

Resolved, That the Report of the committee be laid on the table, and that the Bishops be requested to give an official decision upon the interpretation of the question.

H. F. Johnson asked and obtained leave of absence on account of family affliction.

Bishop Paine took the chair.

Reports Nos. 1 and 2 on the Support of the Ministry were taken up, and Report No. 2, and so much of Report No. 1 as refers to the Support of the Bishops, were withdrawn.

Substitutes offered by A. L. P. Green and W. A. Smith were not adopted.

A substitute offered by J. B. McFerrin, was discussed, acted on, item by item, and adopted.

Report No. 2 was then acted on, item by item, amended and adopted, follows :—

The committee appointed to review the Section in the Discipline on the Support of the Ministry, having carefully considered the subject, reach the conclusion that every thing fixing a definite salary to be paid the preacher or other claimants on the funds of an Annual Conference, should be stricken from the Discipline, and that an entirely different system be adopted; one which shall allow the people whom we serve, and who are to raise the money for our support, to participate more directly in fixing the amount they are to pay. It is not the least among the reasons in favor of so great a change in our economical policy, that such an arrangement will more certainly insure the payment of the salary agreed on, whilst it is equally clear that no hazard will be incurred by any claimant as it relates to the amount to be paid. We, therefore, recommend that every thing in the sixth Section, Part 2, of our Discipline, be stricken out, and the following inserted, viz :

I. All persons who, by the rules and usages of our Church, are claimants on the funds of the Church, shall (as far as practicable) have their claims estimated by the persons who are to pay them, or by an agent authorized to act for them. Hence :

II. The salary and traveling expenses of preachers, or others appointed in their places on circuits, (always meaning by circuits, either circuits, stations, missions, or other work assigned a preacher by a Bishop,) shall be estimated by their respective Boards of Stewards. *Provided*, that as it is the ordinance of God that "they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel," stewards shall feel themselves solemnly bound to afford a competent support to those who are appointed to labor among them.

III. The salary and traveling expenses of presiding elders shall be estimated by the District Stewards' Meeting.

IV. Each Annual Conference shall have a Joint Board of Finance, appointed by the President of the Conference, (unless otherwise ordered,) at the close of its annual session, (to hold their office until the close of the next ensuing Annual Conference session,) and shall consist of *one* clerical and *one* lay member of the Conference for each presiding elder's district. They shall elect their own chairman and secretary, and the Board shall fill all vacancies that may occur in the body; *Provided*, they do so by keeping up an equal number of clerical and lay members.

V. It shall be the duty of the Joint Board—

1. To receive all moneys collected as Conference collections or otherwise, and distribute the same to the superannuated preachers, and the widows and orphan children of deceased members of the Conference, according to their best judgment of their several necessities. They shall estimate the amount that will probably be necessary to meet the claims

of the superannuated preachers and the widows and orphan children of deceased members of the Conference, and apportion the same to the different presiding elders' districts for collection the ensuing year.

2. All matters relating to the financial interests of the Conference shall be referred to this Board, and be carefully considered and reported upon.

3. They shall make a full report of all proceedings to the Conference, who shall either approve, recommit, or amend their report.

4. The members of this Board, and especially the Chairman thereof, shall carefully consider the financial interests during the year, and shall particularly endeavor to collect such authentic information in regard to the pecuniary circumstances of the usual claimants on the Conference funds as shall facilitate the business of the Board at its annual meeting.

VI. All officers appointed by the General Conference, and not otherwise provided for by law, shall have their salaries fixed by the Joint Board of Finance of the Conferences of which they are members, or within the bounds of which the work assigned them by the General Conference lies; and be paid from the proceeds of their office, or by such other means as the Conference may devise.

VII. The district stewards shall apportion the salary allowed a presiding elder among the different circuits of his district. The circuit stewards shall add the amount thus assigned to their circuits to the amount agreed on by them to be raised for their preacher; and apportion the whole among the different congregations of the Church composing the circuit, and report their action as soon as practicable to the Quarterly Conference, and if their assessment and apportionment are approved by the Conference, they shall then report to each Church-meeting the whole amount to be raised by the circuit, and that part of it which that congregation is expected to pay. The Church-meeting shall adopt its own method of raising this money.

VIII. The recording steward of each circuit shall report to the Joint Board of Finance of the Conference a full account of the acts of the Board of Stewards the preceding year. The Joint Board shall decide all issues that may exist between the stewards and the presiding elder or any of the preachers, in relation to salaries, and their decision shall be final; but in no case shall they allow any preacher to have a claim on the church he has served, after his pastoral connection with them has ceased.

IX. Each Annual Conference shall adopt its own method of raising money to pay those who, by the rules and usages of the Church, have claims upon it; *Provided* it does not interfere with the rights guaranteed

to the Church-meetings, to adopt their own methods of raising money to pay their liabilities.

X. The Bishops shall be supported according to the following plan :

1. The allowance of the Bishops for salary and traveling expenses shall be estimated by the Committee on Episcopacy of the General Conference ; and they shall divide the amount between the several Annual Conferences, according to the ability of the Conferences.

2. The Annual Conferences shall be allowed to adopt their own plan for raising said amount, which shall be called the Bishops' Fund.

3. This fund shall be paid over to the Board of Stewards of the Annual Conference ; and the Chairman of said Board shall pay the amount collected to the Bishop presiding at the Annual Conference, and take his receipt and forward the same, or a copy thereof, to the Book Agent.

4. At the annual meeting of the Bishops, each Bishop shall report to the Book Agent the amount paid to him by the several Annual Conferences, to be divided between all the Bishops in proportion to the amount estimated for the support of each Bishop.

5. The Bishops who shall have been placed upon the retired list, or who are unable to do full work, shall share in the collections, in proportion to the amounts estimated, with those who are efficient, and who are actively engaged in the work.

6. In the intervals of the Bishops' annual meeting, the funds collected and paid over to the Bishops shall be divided between the effective Bishops and those who are on the retired list, or who are not able to do full work, by such method as the College of Bishops may devise among themselves.

Resolved, That the Committee on Episcopacy be instructed to make the foregoing estimate immediately, and report to this General Conference.

Conference then adjourned with the benediction by the Bishop, to meet again this evening at 7 o'clock.

Tuesday Evening, May 1, 1866.

Conference met according to adjournment, Bishop Paine in the chair. Religious services were conducted by T. L. Boswell.

The Minutes were read and approved.

John Poisal presented his voucher of election as a Reserve Delegate from the Baltimore Conference, and took his seat, vice Wm. G. Eggleston, who had left for home.

Report No. 5 of the Committee on Changes of Economy was taken up.

A motion of P. A. Peterson to amend the Report by proposing an extension of the pastorate to three years, was lost.

The resolution in the Report was adopted.

The ayes and noes being called for, the vote stood thus :

Ayes—Register, L. M. Lee, W. A. Smith, Duncan, Bennett, Edwards, Granberry, Deems, Moran, W. Smith, Shipp, H. A. C. Walker, Boyd, Fleming, Betts, Kelly, Evans, Myers, Mann, Key, Crumley, Potter, Branham, Parks, Richardson, Mills, Cottrell, Summers, Hamilton, Neely, Mitchell, Hargrove, Dorman, Keener, Parker, J. B. Walker, Harp, Linfield, J. G. Jones, Watkins, Montgomery, B. Jones, Harrington, Marshall, H. F. Johnson, Hanner, Green, Young, Riggs, West, Wiley, Cunyningham, Atkins, J. S. Kennedy, J. M. McTeer, Schon, Hiner, Prottsman, Morris, Winton, W. H. Hughes, Alexander, Lambdin, Stamford, Veal, Davidson, John, Whipple, Seat, Gober, Fitzgerald—72.

Noes—Martin, Veitch, N. Wilson, Roszel, Poisal, Petersqn, Rosser, Craven, Bobbitt, N. H. D. Wilson, Burkhead, S. H. Browne, Stacy, Anthony, J. B. Smith, J. Anderson, Woodberry, Blue, Ellison, McCarty, Ross, Andrews, Calloway, Boswell, Harris, G. Jones, Watson, Moss, W. C. Johnson, Bynum, Mullins, Brooks, McFerrin, J. F. Hughes, Maddin, Mooney, Burr, W. H. Anderson, Redford, E. Johnson, McAnally, Peery, Pinckard, Monroe, Vandeventer, Spencer, Rush, E. T. Jones, Hickerson, Hunter, Ratcliffe, Cobb, Winfield, Harrell, Carr, Tullis, Dennis, Binckley, McKenzie—59.

The Report as a whole was adopted, as follows : —

REPORT NO. 5 OF THE COMMITTEE ON CHANGES OF ECONOMY.

The Committee on Changes of Economy beg leave to offer their Report No. 5.

There have been many papers before the committee respecting the Extension of the Pastoral Term. Some are in the form of resolutions, suggesting the action the Conference should take; some are from Conferences—as the South Carolina Conference, Virginia, Kentucky, and Mobile Conferences, as also those Conferences which referred Dr. Green's Memorial to this body. Some propose an indefinite extension by removing all restrictions as to time from the Discipline; others propose an extension of the time to three or four years, as the rule, and an extension afterwards from year to year, in such cases as come under certain conditions. The committee have considered the various propositions before them, and report to the General Conference that it is their opinion that the Pastoral Term should be extended.

Of all the changes in the rule proposed on this subject, we think that the

simple removal of all that relates to a restricted term of service on any one appointment, is the simplest and best method of reaching the end in view. On this plan, every man's appointment is for *one year, and for one year only*. There is no implication, by a term being set in the Discipline, that he *may remain* two, three, or four years. His stay will depend upon his so adapting himself to his work, that he would probably serve the Church better by being returned another year than by being sent to a new field. The plan would tend to develop all the energy and zeal, and ability of which a man is capable. The stimulus upon him would not be checked as it now is at the end of every two years, by giving him the opportunity of falling back upon the intellectual labors of the past. He will not be like a tree transplanted every season or two, whose growth is checked by the frequent transplantation. Nor would he have to begin a new work every year or two, then leave it unfinished, and begin again somewhere else. By the system proposed, it is believed that a great impulse will be given to the habits of study and devotion to all the interests of the Church of the mass of our ministry.

But the committee do not propose to argue the question here. We believe the Church and ministry are ready to trust the entire determination of the appointments to their Bishops. It may be that some of them will think that no good purpose can be served by retaining a preacher long in any charge. If so, they still retain the power to carry out their views. If one should think otherwise, he, too, by the plan proposed, would have full liberty of action. Whatever the Bishops may do, the Church can trust them; and with the great responsibility on them, their freedom should be unrestrained by law.

In view of these facts, and others that are obvious without recital, the committee offer the following resolution, proposing an amendment of the Discipline:

Resolved, That in paragraph 2 of answer to question 3, section 5, chapter ii., part 1, page 59 of the Discipline, after the words "Annual Conferences," all the rest of the sentence be stricken out from "provided" to "our care," inclusive; and that in paragraph 3 of same section, page 61, all after the words "if necessary," be stricken out.

E. H. MYERS, Chairman.

The Conference then adjourned with the benediction by the Bishop.

Wednesday Morning, May 2, 1866.

Conference met at the stated hour, Bishop Paine in the chair. Religious services were conducted by B. H. Spencer.

The Minutes were read and approved.

J. M. Binckley and J. C. Tullis asked and obtained leave of absence after this day's session, on account of family affliction. J. W. P. McKenzie and W. H. Hughes were also included.

J. R. Pickett, Reserve Delegate, took his seat, vice C. Betts, who had left for home.

J. E. Cobb, from the Committee on Education, submitted a Minority Report, which was read and laid on the table for the present.

E. W. Schon asked and obtained leave to change his vote on the resolution expunging the rule of restriction in the appointment of preachers, from aye to no. S. Hargiss, S. D. Baldwin, and L. D. Huston, registered their votes in the affirmative; W. Kennedy, Lovick Pierce, J. W. Glenn, J. MacLennan, N. H. Lee, J. Rand, and J. M. Steele, in the negative.

The following paper was then presented by the Bishops:—

The Bishops having been asked what constitutes "two-thirds of the General Conference," as demanded in the proviso to the Restrictive Rules, Section II., Chapter 2, Part 1st of the Discipline, give the following as their opinion:

Two-thirds of the General Conference are two-thirds of a legal quorum, or more, of the members who may be present and voting on any question.

J. O. ANDREW,

R. PAINE,

G. F. PIERCE.

T. Maddin gave his vote aye on the substitute for the Report No. 1 of the Committee on Changes of Economy. Guilford Jones, M. L. Andrews, and J. M. McTeer, changed their votes from noes to ayes. The vote accordingly stands ayes 102, noes 42. The substitute thus adopted is as follows:—

Substitute for Report No. 1 of the Committee on Changes of Economy—"on the change of the style and title of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South":

The subject of changing the style and title of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, has been brought before the General Conference by memorials from various Conferences, asking for the change. Therefore,

Be it declared and ordained, and by a vote of two-thirds of the Delegates from the Annual Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, present and voting, in General Conference assembled in the city of New Orleans, on this 27th day of April, A. D. 1866, it is declared and ordained, that the style and title of our Church shall be "The Episcopal Methodist Church."

Provided, that the Bishops or other Presidents shall lay this ordinance before each of the Annual Conferences; and when three-fourths of

the members of the said Annual Conferences present and voting shall have concurred in the aforesaid ordinance, then the Bishops shall declare and proclaim that the legal style and title of our Church shall then and thereafter be "The Episcopal Methodist Church."

The following preamble and resolutions were then offered, read, and adopted:—

WHEREAS, the vote of the General Conference on the Extension of the Pastoral Term is so nearly divided; and, whereas, the change proposed is one fraught with vital consequences; therefore,

Resolved, 1. That the action of the General Conference, repealing the law of limitation, and leaving the term of the pastorate to the discretion of the appointing power, shall not take effect unless approved by a majority of the members of all the Annual Conferences present and voting on this subject.

Resolved, 2. That the Bishops are hereby requested to submit the question to the Annual Conferences at their next sessions; and in the event of the concurrence aforesaid, the Book Editor is hereby instructed to make the necessary alterations in the Book of Discipline.

P. A. PETERSON,
S. REGISTER.

The ayes and noes were called for on the foregoing, and the vote stood as follows.—

Ayes—Register, Martin, Veitch, N. Wilson, Roszel, Poisal, Peterson, Rosser, W. Kennedy, Craven, Bobbitt, N. H. D. Wilson, Burkhead, S. H. Browne, Stacy, Lovick Pierce, Anthony, Glenn, Evans, Crumley, Branham, Parks, J. B. Smith, J. Anderson, Mills, Woodberry, Blue, Ellison, McCarty, Ross, Andrews, Summers, Mitchell, Calloway, Boswell, Harris, G. Jones, Watson, Moss, W. C. Johnson, Bynum, Mullins, Brooks, McFerrin, Green, Riggs, J. F. Hughes, Maddin, Mooney, Burr, Baldwin, Wiley, J. M. McTeer, Schon, N. H. Lee, Redford, Rand, E. Johnson, McAnally, Winton, Peery, Pinckard, Monroe, Vandeventer, Spencer, Rush, E. T. Jones, Hickerson, Steele, Hunter, Ratcliffe, Cobb, Winfield, Harrell, W. H. Hughes, Tullis, Dennis, Binckley, McKenzie, Fitzgerald—80.

Noes—L. M. Lee, W. A. Smith, Duncan, Head, Bennett, Edwards, Granberry, Hargiss, Moran, W. Smith, Shipp, H. A. C. Walker, Boyd, Fleming, Kelly, Pickett, Myers, Mann, Key, Potter, Richardson, Cottrell, Hamilton, Neely, Hargrove, Dorman, Keener, Parker, J. B. Walker, Harp, Linfield, J. G. Jones, Watkins, Montgomery, B. Jones, Harrington, Marshall, Hanner, Young, West, Cunnyingham, Atkins, J. S. Ken-

nedy, Hiner, Huston, Prottsman, Alexander, Lambdin, Stamford, Davidson, John, Whipple, Seat, Gober—54.

Bishop Marvin took the chair.

The Report of the Special Committee on Lay-Representation was taken up, and acted on, item by item, the substitutes being laid on the table.

Bishop Wightman took the chair.

The first item of the Report was amended and adopted—the remaining items were adopted.

The vote on the Report, as a whole, was taken by ayes and noes, and is as follows :—

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON LAY-REPRESENTATION.

The committee charged with the duty of bringing in a plan for effecting lay-representation in the Annual and General Conferences, submit the following :

In the Annual Conferences —After the word *service* in Answer 1, Question 1, Section 3, Chapter 2, page 48 of Discipline, insert—and four lay-representatives, one of whom may be a local preacher, from each Presiding Elder's District, to be chosen annually by the district stewards, or in such other manner as the Annual Conference may direct, who shall participate in all the business of the Conference, except such as involves ministerial character and relations; provided that no one shall be a representative who is not twenty-five years of age, and who has not been for six years, next preceding his election, a member of the Church.

In the General Conference.—Substitute for Answer 1, to Question 1, Section 2, Chapter 2, pp. 42–3 of Discipline: The General Conference shall be composed of one clerical member for every twenty-eight members of each Annual Conference, and an equal number of lay-members, one-fourth of whom may be local preachers, to be appointed as follows: The clerical representatives shall be elected by the clerical members of the Annual Conference; provided that such representatives shall have traveled at least four calendar years from the time that they were received on trial, and are in full connection at the time of holding the Conference. The lay-representatives shall be elected by the lay-members of the Annual Conference—provided that such representatives be twenty-five years of age, and shall have been members of the Church for at least six years at the time of holding the Conference. No Conference shall be denied the privilege of two lay-delegates. 2. The ministers and laymen shall deliberate in one body; but upon a call of one-fifth of the members of the Conference, the lay and clerical members shall vote separately,

and no measure shall be passed without the concurrence of a majority of both classes of representatives.

The following changes in the Discipline are also recommended :

Number the 2d paragraph as 3d ; the 3d paragraph as 4th. On pages 43-4 of Discipline, fixing a quorum for General Conference, substitute "a majority" for "two-thirds."

Resolved, That the proposition for the introduction of lay-representation into the Annual and General Conferences, be submitted to the several Annual Conferences ; and upon the approval of three-fourths of all the members of all the Annual Conferences present and voting, the plan herewith submitted shall become the law of the Church ; provided the same shall have passed this Conference by a two-thirds vote.

H. N. McTYEIRE, Chairman.

Ayes—Register, Martin, Veitch, Poisal, L. M. Lee, W. A. Smith, Duncan, Head, Bennett, Edwards, Granberry, Hargiss, Deems, Moran, W. Smith, Shipp, H. A. C. Walker, Boyd, Stacy, Fleming, Kelly, Pickett, Lovick Pierce, Glenn, Evans, Myers, Mann, Key, Crumley, Potter, Branham, Parks, J. Anderson, Richardson, Mills, Woodberry, Blue, Ellison, McCarty, Ross, Cottrell, Andrews, Summers, Hamilton, Neely, Mitchell, Hargrove, Dorman, Parker, J. B. Walker, Harp, J. G. Jones, Watkins, Montgomery, B. Jones, Harrington, Marshall, W. C. Johnson, McFerrin, Green, Riggs, West, Cunyngham, Atkins, J. S. Kennedy, Redford, Hiner, Rand, Huston, McAnally, Morris, Winton, Pinckard, Vandeventer, Rush, Hunter, Winfield, Harrell, Dennis, Alexander, Lambdin, Stamford, Veal, Davidson, John, Whipple, Seat, Gober, Fitzgerald—89.

Noes—N. Wilson, Roszel, Peterson, Rosser, W. Kennedy, Craven, Bobbitt, N. H. D. Wilson, Burkhead, Browne, Anthony, J. B. Smith, Keener, Linfield, MacLennan, Boswell, Harris, G. Jones, Watson, Moss, Bynum, Mullins, Brooks, Hanner, Young, J. F. Hughes, Maddin, Mooney, Burr, Baldwin, Wiley, J. M. McTeer, N. H. Lee, E. Johnson, Peery, Monroe, Spencer, E. T. Jones, Hickerson, Steele, Ratcliffe, Cobb, W. H. Hughes, Tullis, Binckley, McKenzie—46.

Bishop Doggett took the chair.

On motion, the resolutions of P. A. Peterson were reconsidered and laid on the table by a vote of 68 to 47.

On motion of P. M. Pinckard, the vote on Report No. 5 on Changes of Economy was reconsidered.

W. W. Bennett moved as a substitute to extend the pastoral term to four years.

Pending the discussion of this subject, Conference adjourned with the benediction by the Bishop, to meet this evening at 7 o'clock.

Wednesday Evening, May 2, 1866.

Conference met according to adjournment. Bishop McTyeire in the chair. Religious services were conducted by W. H. Watkins.

The Minutes were read, corrected, and approved.

E. W. Schon, C. C. Callaway, and W. M. Prottzman recorded their votes in the affirmative, and J. B. Smith, S. Anthony, S. D. Baldwin, J. M. McTeer, and E. E. Wiley, changed their votes from negative to affirmative, on the Report of the Special Committee on Lay-representation. The vote now stands ayes 97, noes 41.

A. H. Redford asked and obtained leave of absence after to night.

The subject under discussion at adjournment this morning, to wit: the extension of the pastorate, was taken up. J. E. Evans offered a substitute, and J. C. Granberry an amendment, both of which were lost.

The motion of W. W. Bennett, changing two to four years, was carried by a vote of 72 to 49.

Bishop Pierce took the chair.

W. A. Smith, from the Committee on Episcopacy, submitted Report No. 4 of that committee, which was read and adopted, as follows:—

REPORT NO. 4 OF THE COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY.

The Committee on Episcopacy respectfully submit the following report:

The annual salary of the Bishops for the next four years shall be as follows:

APPROPRIATIONS TO THE BISHOPS.

Bishop Soule.....	\$1500 00
Bishop Andrew.....	2500 00
Bishop Paine.....	300 000
Bishop Pierce	3000 00
Bishop Early.	2500 00
Bishop Kavanaugh.....	2500 00
Bishop Wightman.....	3000 00
Bishop Marvin.....	3000 00
Bishop Doggett.....	3000 00
Bishop McTyeire	3000 00

\$27,000 00

The following resolutions are submitted to the Conference for adoption:

Resolved, 1. That each Conference pay the bill of traveling expenses that may be submitted by the Bishop as having been incurred in the

discharge of his duties in its behalf. Extra labors in the bounds of a Conference should in all cases be paid by those who invited them.

Resolved, 2. That the above amount of \$27,000 be distributed among the Conferences as follows :

Baltimore Conference.....	\$1395 00
Western Virginia Conference.....	185 00
Virginia Conference.....	1860 00
North Carolina Conference.....	1395 00
South Carolina Conference.....	1000 00
Georgia Conference.....	1860 00
Florida Conference.....	465 00
Montgomery Conference.....	1500 00
Mobile Conference.....	1500 00
Louisiana Conference.....	1140 00
Mississippi Conference.....	1395 00
Memphis Conference.....	1395 00
Tennessee Conference.....	1650 00
Holston Conference.....	560 00
Louisville Conference.....	1395 00
Kentucky Conference.....	1395 00
Missouri Conference.....	930 00
St. Louis Conference.....	1395 00
Arkansas Conference.....	465 00
Little Rock Conference.....	930 00
Texas Conference.....	945 00
East Texas Conference.....	940 00
North-west Texas Conference.....	280 00
West Texas Conference.....	280 00
Pacific Conference	465 00
Columbia Conference	280 00
Indian Mission Conference.....	

\$27,000 00

All which is respectfully submitted.

WM. A. SMITH, Chairman.

P. M. Pinckard offered resolutions in regard to the payment of the Bishops, which were read and referred to J. S. Key, J. B. McFerrin, and A. L. P. Green, as a special committee to report on this subject.

J. Hamilton, chairman of the Committee on Boundaries, submitted Report No. 6 of that committee, which was read and adopted, as follows :—

The Committee on Boundaries beg leave to offer their sixth and final Report.

1. BALTIMORE CONFERENCE shall embrace all the territory lying north and west of the Great Choptank River, on the Eastern Shore of Maryland : the line shall then run with the Chesapeake Bay to the mouth of the Potomac River ; thence up said river to the county line between Stafford and King George counties ; then taking Fredericksburg and running up the Rappahannock River to the Blue Ridge Mountains ; thence by that chain of mountains to New River, in Floyd county, including Jacksonville Circuit ; and by that river westwardly to the line of Greenbrier county, so as to include all the pastoral charges in that locality embraced in the Lewisburg District ; then taking the county line between Pocahontas and Randolph counties, and running to the Alleghany Mountains ; thence by said mountains northward, so as to include all the territory which may be now or hereafter under our jurisdiction, and not embraced in other Conference boundaries.

2. VIRGINIA CONFERENCE shall be bounded on the east by the Atlantic Ocean, embracing all the work on the Eastern Shore of Virginia and the State of Maryland not included in the bounds of the Baltimore Conference ; on the north by the Potomac River, from its mouth to the line of King George and Stafford counties ; and thence to the Rappahannock River, and by that river to the Blue Ridge ; on the west by the Blue Ridge to the State line ; on the south by Albemarle Sound and Roanoke River to its intersection with the State line ; and thence by said line to the top of the Blue Ridge.

3. WESTERN VIRGINIA CONFERENCE shall include all that part of West Virginia not embraced in the Baltimore and Holston Conferences, beginning at the western extremity of the State of Maryland, and running along the south-western range of the Alleghany Mountains to the Holston Conference line, on the Flat-top Mountain ; and also that part of the State of Kentucky included in the Guyandotte District.

4. NOTRH CAROLINA CONFERENCE shall be bounded on the east by the Atlantic Ocean, on the north by Albemarle Sound and Roanoke River to that point where it is intersected by the State line ; and thence with the said line to the top of the Blue Ridge, including the counties of Wilkes, Alexander and Iredell ; on the south by the south lines of Iredell, Rowan, the Yadkin and Pedee Rivers, and the State line to the ocean.

5. SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE shall include the State of South Carolina, and so much of the State of North Carolina as is not included in other Conferences.

6. GEORGIA CONFERENCE shall include all the State of Georgia except

asmall portion included in the Holston Conference, and that part which lies south of a line commencing at Fort Gaines, on the Chattahoochee River, running thence in a direct line to Albany, on Flint River; thence along the line of the Ocmulgee and Flint River Railroad to the Alapaha River; thence in a direct line to House Creek, where it enters the Ocmulgee; thence down said river to the Altamaha; thence down the Altamaha to the Atlantic Ocean; it shall also include the town of Girard, Alabama.

7. FLORIDA CONFERENCE shall include all that part of the State of Georgia not included in the Georgia Conference, and all of the State of Florida not included in the Montgomery Conference.

8. MONTGOMERY CONFERENCE shall include West Florida, except Apalachicola, and all that part of the State of Alabama lying east of the line herein described, viz: beginning at the mouth of the Mobile River; thence up that stream and the Alabama River to the City of Selma; thence up the Alabama and Tennessee Rivers Railroad to Montevallo, the same to be considered as east of the line; thence along the Elyton road to the Cahaba; thence up said river to the eastern line of Blount county, and along said line to the southern boundary of the Tennessee Conference.

9. MOBILE CONFERENCE shall include all that part of the State of Alabama lying west of the line dividing it from the Montgomery Conference, and south of the Tennessee Conference, and the counties of Jackson, Greene, Wayne, Clarke, Lauderdale, Kemper, Lowndes, Noxubee, that part of Monroe east of the Tombigbee River, and that part of Itawamba east of Bull Mountain Creek, in the State of Mississippi.

10. LOUISIANA CONFERENCE shall include all the State of Louisiana not included in the Mississippi Conference.

11. MISSISSIPPI CONFERENCE shall include all the State of Mississippi not included in the Memphis and Alabama Conferences, together with so much of the State of Louisiana as is north of Bayou Manshack, Amite River, Lakes Marepas, Ponchartrain, and Bourne, except Baton Rouge.

12. MEMPHIS CONFERENCE shall be bounded on the east by the Tombigbee River, Alabama State line, and Tennessee River; on the north by the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers; west by the Mississippi River; and south by a line running due east from the Mississippi River to the southwest corner of Tallahatchie county; thence due east to the south-eastern corner of Yallabusha county; thence in a stright line to the north-western corner of Oktibbeha county; thence due east to Tibby Creek; and thence with said creek to the Tombigbee River.

13. TENNESSEE CONFERENCE shall include Middle Tennessee, and

that part of North Alabama watered by those streams flowing into the Tennessee River.

14. **HOLSTON CONFERENCE** shall include East Tennessee; that part of Virginia which is now embraced in the Wytheville, Abingdon, and Rogersville Districts; that part of North Carolina lying west of the Blue Ridge; a small portion east of the Blue Ridge, embraced in Catawba Circuit, and what is in the Wytheville District; and that part of the State of Georgia beginning on the State line of Tennessee, at the eastern part of the Lookout Mountain, and running with the base of Lookout Mountain to the Alabama line; and thence north with the said line to the State line of Tennessee.

15. **KENTUCKY CONFERENCE** shall include all that part of the State of Kentucky that lies north and east of a line beginning at the mouth of Harrod's Creek, on the Ohio River; thence running south on the northern line of the Middletown and Jeffersontown Circuits, to the Bardstown turnpike road; thence with said turnpike to Bardstown; thence with the direct road to Springfield; thence to the towns of Haysville and Liberty; thence due south to the Cumberland River; thence up said river to the fork; thence up the south fork to the Tennessee line, including in this Conference Liberty, and all that part of the State of Kentucky not included in other Conferences.

16. **LOUISVILLE CONFERENCE** shall include all that part of the State of Kentucky not included in the Kentucky, Western Virginia, and Memphis Conferences.

17. **ST. LOUIS CONFERENCE** shall include all that part of the State of Missouri lying south of the Missouri River, and that part of the State of Kansas and New Mexico south of the Kansas River.

18. **MISSOURI CONFERENCE** shall include all that part of the State of Missouri lying north of the Missouri River, and all that part of the State of Kansas lying north of the Kansas River, also the Montana and Idaho Territories.

19. **ARKANSAS CONFERENCE** shall include all the State of Arkansas north of a line commencing at the mouth of White River, and running thence up said river to the mouth of Des Arc Bayou; thence up said bayou to the mouth of Cypress Bayou; thence up said bayou to its head; thence down the Palarm Creek to the Arkansas River; thence up said river to the mouth of the Petit Jean; thence along the line between Yell and Perry counties to the south-west corner of Perry; thence in a direct line to the south-west corner of Yell county; thence due west to the western line of the State.

20. **LITTLE ROCK CONFERENCE** shall include all the State of Arkansas not included in the Arkansas Conference.

21. INDIAN MISSION CONFERENCE shall be bounded on the north by the State of Kansas, east by the States of Missouri and Arkansas, south by Red River, and west by the Rocky Mountains.

22. TEXAS CONFERENCE shall be bounded on the east by the Trinity, from the south-east corner of Leon county to the coast; south by the Gulf to Trespacios Bay; west by the Trespacios and the east line of Jackson, Lavacca, Gonzales, Caldwell, and Hays counties; north by the Perdenales, and a direct line from its mouth to the north-west corner of Travis county and the south line of Williamson, Milam, Robertson, and Leon counties to the Trinity.

23. EAST TEXAS CONFERENCE shall embrace all that part of the State of Texas east of a line beginning at the east pass of the Bay of Galveston; thence through said bay to the mouth of Trinity River; thence up said river to the source of the west fork of the same; and thence due north to Red River.

24. NORTH-WEST TEXAS CONFERENCE shall be bounded north by the State line; east by the East Texas Conference; south by the Texas Conference; west by the road from San Antonio to Fort Mason; thence due north to the Colorado River; thence up said river to the Big Spring; thence due north to the State line.

25. WEST TEXAS CONFERENCE shall include all that part of the State of Texas west of the Texas and North-west Texas Conferences.

26. COLUMBIA CONFERENCE shall include the State of Oregon and that part of the State of California lying north of Scott's Mountain, with the Washington Territory.

27. PACIFIC CONFERENCE shall include all the State of California not embraced in the Columbia Conference, and that part of the Territory of New Mexico west of the Rocky Mountains.

The names of the Alabama and Kansas Mission Conferences to be dropped from the Discipline, and the name of Wachita changed to Little Rock.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. HAMILTON, Chairman.

New Orleans, May 2, 1866.

The Special Committee on the payment of the Bishops submitted the following Report, which was adopted:—

Resolved, That the delegations present notify immediately the chairman of the Board of Stewards of their respective Conferences, or the Presiding Elders, of the amount assessed to such Conference—requesting that collections be made at once, and forwarded to the chairman of the Board of Stewards or any one else who may be designated by the delegates, who

shall forward the same to the Bishop most convenient, taking his receipt, to be sent to the Book Agent.

WM. A. SMITH, Chairman,
J. S. KEY,
J. B. McFERRIN.

The following resolution was then offered, read, and adopted :—

Resolved, That the Book Agent be, and he is hereby, instructed to publish in a separate volume, and in large, open type, the Ritual of the Church, including Mr. Wesley's Sunday Service, the form of dedicating Churches and the form of admission to the Church, heretofore authorized to be published as an Appendix to the Discipline.

LEROY M. LEE,
A. L. P. GREEN.

Reports Nos. 1, 2, 3, of the Committee on Revisal were taken up, and adopted—the item recommending the restoration of the words “holy Catholic Church” in the Creed not being adopted.

The Reports are as follows :

REPORT NO. 1 OF THE COMMITTEE ON REVISAL.

The Committee on Revisal have considered the resolutions of J. G. Jones and H. A. C. Walker, and of A. M. Shipp and C. Betts, and recommend the adoption of the following resolution :

Resolved, That the following changes and additions be made in the Discipline, Chapter II., Section 2: In Answer 2, after the words “from time to time,” insert, instead of what follows, this clause—“but the Bishops or a majority of all the Annual Conferences shall have authority to call a General Conference, if they judge it necessary, at any time. The Bishops, if they judge it necessary, shall have authority to change the place appointed for the meeting of the General Conference. When a General Conference is called, it shall be constituted of the delegates elected to the preceding General Conference, except when an Annual Conference shall prefer to have a new election.”

Respectfully submitted.

THOMAS O. SUMMERS, Chairman.

New Orleans, April 11, 1866.

REPORT NO. 2 OF THE COMMITTEE ON REVISAL.

The Committee on Revisal present their Report No. 2, as follows :—

In answer to the memorial of St. Francis Street Church, Mobile, in regard to the use of the Sunday Service of the Methodist Episcopal Church, prepared by Mr. Wesley, the committee report the following resolution :

Resolved, That the General Conference has no objection to the use of the Sunday Service prepared by Mr. Wesley for the Methodist Episcopal Church, or any part of it, by any congregation that may choose to use it.

In answer to the memorial of the Virginia Conference respecting the increase of Stewards, the committee report the following resolution :

Resolved, That instead of Paragraph 1, Section 5, Part II., page 258 of the Discipline, the following be inserted: "There shall be in each pastoral charge, if practicable, at least seven Stewards; and a greater number may be appointed at the discretion of the Quarterly Conference; *provided*, that there be not more than one for every thirty members, though there may be one for every society on a circuit." Also that the words "wherever necessary" be inserted instead of the words "in every class," in Paragraph 4 of Section 5, page 259.

In regard to a resolution of J. Stacy and H. A. C. Walker, asking that a three-fourths vote be made necessary to alter the Boundaries of Conferences, the committee beg leave to state that they do not think the proposed change expedient.

In regard to the inquiry in the same paper, whether the first proviso under the Sixth Restrictive Article gives to a single Annual Conference the power to defeat any measure approved by all the others, the committee report that they do not so understand that proviso.

In regard to the resolution of J. MacLennan and H. H. Montgomery, asking changes on page 62 of the Discipline respecting Episcopal Decisions, the committee report that they do not deem any change expedient.

In regard to the resolution of J. Hamilton and A. H. Mitchell, asking that it be made obligatory on Annual Conferences to sit with closed doors during the examination of character, the committee report that they do not deem the proposed change expedient.

In answer to a memorial of the Mississippi Conference, asking that the Discipline be so changed as to provide for a "Committee on Character," to consider and report on all complaints and charges in Annual Conferences, the committee report that they do not consider the proposed change expedient.

In regard to the resolution of H. H. Montgomery and J. MacLennan, proposing changes in the Questions on pages 49—50 of the Discipline, the committee report that they do not deem the proposed changes expedient, but recommend the adoption of the following resolution :

Resolved, That there be inserted a new question to be numbered 17: "How many infants and adults have been baptized during the year?" Also another to be numbered 18: "What is the number of Sunday-schools, teachers, and scholars?"

In regard to the resolution of W. M. Wightman and L. M. Lee, the committee report favorably by recommending the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That a brief and properly digested Catechism, to be prepared by the Bishops and Book Editor, be printed in the Book of Discipline.

Respectfully submitted.

THOMAS O. SUMMERS, Chairman.

New Orleans, April 12, 1866.

REPORT NO. 3 OF THE COMMITTEE ON REVISAL.

The Committee on Revisal submit their Report No. 3.

In regard to the changes, omissions, and additions in the Discipline proposed in the paper presented by T. O. Summers, they recommend as follows:

Enlarge the note on page 35 by the addition of the words, "For other provisions concerning classes, see Chapter 3, Section 2."

On page 52, Chapter 2, Section 3, Question 5, Answer 1, substitute "may retire" for "shall retire."

On page 67, Chapter 2, Section 7, Question 1, Answer 4, instead of the words, "memorandum of it be written in all the class-books," substitute, "suitable services be held on the occasion, wherever practicable."

On page 70, Chapter 2, Section 7, Question 1, Answer 16, substitute, "To furnish every one leaving his charge with a certificate in the following form: "The bearer hereof, A. B., has been an acceptable member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in C. Station, (circuit or mission,) D. Conference."

On page 107, Chapter 2, Section 18, Question 1, Answer 5, omit all after the word "member."

On page 118, Chapter 3, Section 5, Question 1, Answers 1 and 2, instead of "Chapter" and "Chapters," insert "lesson" and "lessons."

On page 118, Chapter 3, Section 5, Question 1, Answer 4, substitute, "Let the Lord's Supper be administered monthly in every congregation, wherever it is practicable, and where it is not practicable, at every Quarterly Meeting. Let the service preceding the administration be so proportioned as to allow of due time for this solemn ordinance."

On page 119, Chapter 3, Section 5, Question 1, Answer 5, substitute for the first sentence the following: "Let the Ritual be invariably used in all the offices for which it is prescribed."

On pages 121—123, omit Sections 6 and 7.

On page 132, Chapter 4, Section 1, Question 6, instead of the sentence, "And after such form, etc.," substitute, as a distinct paragraph, the fol-

lowing: "No expelled minister shall be restored to the communion of the Church without giving satisfactory evidence of repentance, unless the Annual Conference shall become convinced that he was innocent of the crime for which he was expelled, in which case the Conference may restore him to his previous standing."

On page 143, Chapter 4, Section 3, Question 3, Answer 1, insert "suspend or" before expel, and instead of "excluded," substitute "suspended or expelled."

On page 145, Chapter 4, Section 3, Question 3, Answer 5, insert "suspended or," before "excluded."

On page 146, Chapter 4, Section 3, Question 3, Answer 6, substitute, "No expelled person shall be restored to the communion of the Church without giving satisfactory evidence of repentance, unless the Quarterly Conference shall become convinced that he was innocent of the crime for which he was expelled, in which case he may be restored."

On page 158, Chapter 5, Section 1, in the Rubric, substitute "extemporaneous" for "extempore."

On page 163, Chapter 5, Section 2, after the Gospel, insert the following:

"Then the minister addressing the parents or others presenting the child, shall say,

"In causing *this child* to be brought by baptism into the Church of Christ, it is your duty to teach *him* to renounce the devil and all his works, the vain pomp and glory of the world, with all covetous desires of the same, and the carnal desires of the flesh, so that he may not follow or be led by them; to believe all the articles of the Christian faith, and to obediently keep God's holy will and commandments all the days of *his* life."

In the Rubric, after "hands," insert, "if convenient." Instead of the Rubric, "Then shall be said, all kneeling," substitute the following: "The minister may, at his discretion, lay hands on the subject, accompanying the act with a suitable invocation, and then all kneeling, close with extemporaneous devotions and the Lord's Prayer."

On page 164, Chapter 5, Section 2, omit the Rubric, "Then shall the minister conclude, etc." So on page 172.

On page 175, after the words, "I will," said by the woman, insert the following:

"When the parties so desire, the man shall give unto the woman a ring; and the minister taking the ring shall deliver it unto the man, to put it upon the fourth finger of the woman's left hand; and the man, holding the ring there, and taught by the minister, shall say,

“With this ring I thee wed, and with all my worldly goods I thee endow: in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.”

On page 175, Chapter 5, Section 3, after the Rubric, “Let us pray,” insert the Lord’s Prayer.

On page 176, Chapter 5, Section 3, instead of “husband,” restore the word “man.”

On page 177, Chapter 5, Section 3, omit the Lord’s Prayer and preceding Rubric.

The committee recommend the Conference to adopt the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Book Editor be, and is hereby, instructed to conform the next edition of the Discipline to the foregoing emendations.

Respectfully submitted.

THOMAS O. SUMMERS, Chairman.

New Orleans, April 14, 1866.

The Conference then adjourned with the benediction by the Bishop.

Thursday Morning, May 3, 1866.

Conference met at the stated hour, Bishop Pierce in the chair. Religious services were conducted by W. P. Ratcliffe.

The Minutes were read and approved.

Reports Nos. 4, 5, 6, and 7, of the Committee on Revisal, were taken up, amended, and adopted, as follows:—

REPORT NO. 4 OF THE COMMITTEE ON REVISAL.

The Committee on Revisal submit their Report No. 4, as follows:

On the resolution of Whitefoord Smith and W. H. Fleming, the committee recommend as follows:

On page 42 of the Discipline, Chapter 2, Section 1, substitute “devotions” for “exercises.” On page 49, instead of the words, “in the order of the following questions,” substitute: “The following questions shall be asked.” Omit the words in Answer to Question 3, “an elder, who shall be appointed by the Bishop by letter; but if no such appointment be made;” and the words “appointed or.”

On page 63, Chapter 2, Section 5, Answer 10, substitute, “To unite two or more circuits, stations, or missions together, *provided* the financial interests and pastoral duties of each remain separate and independent, and to divide a circuit, station, or mission into two or more, when he judges it necessary.”

On pages 84-103, omit Sections 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and place them in an Appendix to the next edition of the Preacher's Manual.

On pages 103, 104, omit Section 17.

On pages 121-123, omit Sections 6 and 7. Omit Question 4 and the Answer, in Section 5.

On page 140, Chapter 4, Section 3, Question 2, Answer 2, omit all after the word "final," and also Answer 3.

The committee recommend the Conference to adopt the following resolution :

Resolved, That the Book Editor be, and is hereby, instructed to conform the next edition of the Discipline to the foregoing emendations.

Respectfully submitted.

THOMAS O. SUMMERS, Chairman.

New Orleans, April 14, 1866.

REPORT NO. 5 OF THE COMMITTEE ON REVISAL.

The Committee on Revisal submit their Report No. 5.

In regard to the plan of taking four collections in one, proposed by Lovick Pierce, the committee respectfully report that as the Conference has already taken action in respect to Missionary collections, the committee do not recommend the plan proposed.

In regard to the resolution of B. Craven on changing circuits; the resolution of W. G. Veal and A. Davidson on abridging the Ritual; the resolutions of W. H. Bobbitt and L. S. Burkhead, and of A. M. Shipp and H. A. C. Walker, on the Studies, Labors, and Ordination of Local Preachers, the committee doubt the propriety of making the proposed changes.

In regard to the memorial from Woodville, on expulsions from the Church; the resolution of W. M. Rush and C. I. Vandeventer, on the assumption of the Baptismal vows by persons baptized in infancy; the resolutions of B. Craven on seating Congregations; the committee report that the changes proposed are provided for in previous Reports submitted to the Conference.

In regard to changes proposed in the paper presented by Thomas O. Summers, the committee recommend the omission of the clause referring to ordination on pages 73-74 of the Discipline, Chapter 2, Section 8, Question 2, Answer 1, and the insertion in the Answer to Question 1, Section 9, after the word "Bishop," these words: "*Provided*, that no one shall be so elected and ordained, who has not been one year in the regular itinerant work, except such as may be selected by the Bishop for the Missionary work." Also, that in the Answer to Question 3, Section 9, the words "two years" be substituted by the words "one year."

At the end of Section 9 insert, "*Provided*, That in the case of Colored Preachers, the question, both as to time and qualifications for orders, shall be left to the Annual Conference."

The committee recommend the changing of the title of Section 11, Chapter 2, to the following: "Of the Reception of Ministers from other Churches," the omission of the first Question and Answer, conforming the notation of the rest to this omission. Also, the insertion at the close of what will then be the Answer to Question 1, these words: "*Provided*, that the Bishop may, at his discretion, allow such Ministers to exercise their functions, as Deacons or Elders, until the session of the Annual Conference." Also, the changing of the word "denominations" to "Churches" in the last Question of that Section.

The committee recommend the Conference to adopt the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Book Editor be, and is hereby, instructed to conform the next edition of the Discipline to the foregoing changes.

Respectfully submitted.

THOMAS O. SUMMERS, Chairman.

New Orleans, April 18, 1866.

REPORT NO. 6 OF THE COMMITTEE ON REVISAL.

The Committee on Revisal submit their Report No. 6, as follows:—

In regard to the resolution of S. H. Browne, proposing an amendment to the note on the 23d Article, and the instruction of the Conference respecting the history of said note, the committee report that the note was inserted in 1820. Dr. Emory says it was "added especially to meet the peculiar case of the brethren in Canada, against whom unfounded suspicions had been created, because the M. E. Church, of which they were then a part, was regarded as a foreign ecclesiastical authority." In 1858 our General Conference substituted the words "any foreign government" for the words, "the British or any other government." The clause respecting obedience to the powers that be, manifestly refers to the Apostle's instructions in Romans xiii., and is to be interpreted accordingly. The committee do not think any amendment necessary.

In regard to the resolution of W. C. Johnson and S. Watson, asking that the questions now propounded to candidates for admission on trial in the Annual Conference, be instead propounded to preachers on their admission into full connection, as was the case before 1858, the committee recommend that the change proposed be made in the Discipline.

In regard to the resolution of N. H. D. Wilson and L. S. Burkhead, the committee concur with their request, that the Discipline be amended

on page 127, Chapter iv., Section 1, Answer to Question 3, and on page 143, Chapter iv., Section 3, Question 3, Answer 1, by inserting after the words, "bring the accused and accuser face to face," the following: "When the crime is alleged to have been committed in the absence of any other party or parties competent to give testimony, the statement of both the accused and the accuser shall be taken, and the committee before whom the case is brought for trial shall give both statements whatever weight they deem them entitled to, in rendering their verdict for guilt or innocence."

In regard to a resolution of J. C. Keener and E. E. Wiley, asking for a rule interdicting the appointment of preachers who have not traveled one year to the charge of a circuit or station, the committee do not recommend the proposed rule.

The committee recommend the insertion on page 66, as Answer 9, (the next Answer being numbered 10,) the following: "To procure at the fourth Quarterly Meeting full statistics from every charge, to be reported at the Annual Conference in case the preacher in charge shall fail to make his report."

The committee do not deem it expedient to insert in the Discipline the questions in examination of character in Annual Conferences proposed by S. H. Browne and W. H. Fleming.

The committee have carefully considered the papers presented by the venerable Lovick Pierce, and recommend that the paper on the Duties of Preachers be referred to the Book Editor for incorporation, in whole or in part, in the Preacher's Manual; and that the paper on the Relations of Preachers be transferred to the Committee on the Support of the Ministry. In regard to the paper on the Organization of Circuits, they recommend the Conference to adopt the following resolution:

Resolved, That the appointments on circuits should be so arranged as to secure Sunday services at as many places as possible.

In regard to sundry papers on Trials and Appeals, the committee recommend the Conference to adopt the following emendations of the Discipline:

On page 52, after the first paragraph, insert: "When any traveling preacher is located he shall be amenable to the Quarterly Conference of the charge last filled by him, until he shall present his certificate of location to some other Quarterly Conference."

On page 124, substitute for the present, the following:

“CHAPTER I V.

“CHURCH TRIALS.

“SECTION 1.—*Of the Trial of a Bishop.*

“When a Bishop shall be under report, or be accused of imprudence, or immorality, three traveling elders shall call upon him,” etc., as at present.

Page 126, instead of Question 2 and Answer, insert :

“When a Bishop shall cease to travel at large among the people without the consent of the General Conference, he shall not thereafter exercise the Episcopal office in our Church.”

On the same page, instead of Question 3, insert :

“SECTION 2.—*Of the Trial of Traveling Preachers.*

“When any traveling preacher is under report of being guilty of some crime expressly forbidden in the word of God, if it be in the interval of the Annual Conference, let the Presiding Elder,” etc., insert what follows down to “face,” 9th line from the top, then insert, “and cause an exact record of the investigation, signed by the President and Secretary, to be transmitted to the Annual Conference, at which his case shall be fully considered and determined.”

At the 10th line from the bottom of the same page, 127, strike out the last sentence and insert :

“If the accused be ■ Presiding Elder, any three traveling elders or deacons of his district shall inquire into the report, and if they judge it necessary, call in the Presiding Elder of any other district, who shall appoint a committee of five elders from within the bounds of the Annual Conference of which the accused is a member, and also preside at the investigation.”

On page 128, after the word “matter,” insert :

“When the accusation is preferred during the session of an Annual Conference, it shall be first referred to a committee of three traveling elders, whose duty it shall be to bring forward all the charges preferred, in proper form, and also to report to the Conference such cases as they judge necessary to be tried. If the Conference differ in judgment with the committee, a new committee may be appointed to inquire into the facts and report. And all cases so reported for trial shall be referred to a committee of not less than nine nor more than thirteen, who, in the presence of a Bishop, or ■ chairman, whom the President of the Conference shall appoint, and one or more of the secretaries of the Conference, shall have full power to try the case; and their decision shall be final,

save as to the right of appeal; *Provided, always*, that the accused shall, upon good grounds alleged, be allowed to challenge five in a committee of nine, or seven in a committee of thirteen, and in the same ratio. And the said committee shall make a faithful report to the Secretary of the Conference in writing, and deliver up to him the whole record of the case, with the decision rendered."

Page 128, strike out Question 4th, and insert:

"When a traveling preacher is under report of indulging improper tempers, words, or actions, he shall be reprehended," etc.

Page 129, 3d line from the top, strike out all the paragraph after the word "connection."

Page 129, strike out Question 5, and insert:

"When any traveling preacher shall be under report of holding and disseminating publicly or privately, doctrines which are contrary to our Articles of Religion, let the same process," etc.

Page 129, strike out Question 6, and on page 130 strike out the Answer thereto down to and including the word "case" in the 7th line, and insert:

"When a traveling preacher is under report of being so unacceptable, inefficient, or secular, as to be no longer useful in his work, the Conference shall investigate the case," etc.

Page 131, strike out all from the word "to" in the 10th line from the top down to the word "preserve" in the 16th line; also strike out the word "minutes" in the 17th line.

Page 132, 1st line on the top, after the word "Conference," insert: "There shall be a committee appointed, consisting of one Delegate from each Annual Conference, who, in the presence of a Bishop, and one or more of the secretaries of the General Conference, shall have full power to try the case; and their decision shall be final. And the said committee shall make a faithful report to the Secretary of the General Conference, in writing, and deliver up to him the whole record of the case, with the decision rendered. But any member of the committee may be excused from serving on any appeal when he has been a member of the committee that first tried the case."

Page 132, 8th line from the bottom, change the word "Conference" to "committee."

Page 135, strike out "Section 2," the heading following, and Question 2, and insert:

"SECTION 3.—*Of the Trial of Local Preachers.*

"When a local preacher is under report of being guilty of some crime

expressly forbidden in the word of God, the preacher having charge," etc.—making this the first paragraph in the Section.

Page 135, strike out Question 1, and the first four words of the Answer, and insert :

"When a local preacher is under report of being guilty of improper tempers, words, or actions, he," etc.

Page 138, strike out "Section 3," and the heading following; Question 1 and Answers thereto; Question 2 and Answers thereto; and on page 142, 3d line from the bottom, strike out Question 3, and all of Answer 1 down to "him," 8th line from the bottom of page 143, and insert :

"SECTION 4.—Of the Trial of Members.

"When a member of the Church is under report of being guilty of some crime expressly forbidden in the word of God, the preacher having charge shall appoint a committee of three discreet members, who shall investigate the report, and if they judge a trial to be necessary, they shall appoint one of their number to prepare a bill of charges and specifications, and also to prosecute the case. Upon the presentation of such bill of charges, the preacher shall appoint a committee of not less than five nor more than thirteen, who shall have full power to try the case; and if the accused be found guilty by the decision of a majority of the committee, and the crime be such as is expressly forbidden in the word of God, let the preacher declare him expelled. Nevertheless, the preacher may, at his discretion, bring the case before the whole Church for trial.

"A copy of the charge and specifications shall be delivered to the accused a sufficient length of time before the trial, to enable him to make all necessary preparations for his defense; and in the case of trial before a committee, he shall be allowed, upon good reasons alleged, to challenge two in a committee of five, and in like ratio for any other number.

"The preacher in charge shall preside at the trial, and decide all questions of law appertaining to or growing out of the case."

Page 145, strike out Answer 4.

Page 137, 11th line from the top, after the word "Conference," insert "by a committee."

The committee recommend the Conference to adopt the following resolutions:

Resolved, That a Special Committee of Three be appointed at this General Conference to rearrange the Book of Discipline, and to report their rearrangement to the next General Conference.

Resolved, That the Book Editor be, and is hereby, instructed to incorporate the foregoing emendations into the next edition of the Discipline.

Respectfully submitted.

THOMAS O. SUMMERS, Chairman.

New Orleans, April 21, 1866.

REPORT NO. 7 OF THE COMMITTEE ON REVISAL.

The Committee on Revisal submit their Report No. 7.

In regard to the resolution of J. Stacy and H. A. C. Walker, asking that the first Restrictive Rule be made more definite in reference to standards of doctrine, the committee do not concur with the proposal.

They do not think it advisable to adopt the resolution of R. K. Hargrove and H. N. McTyeire in reference to statistics; nor the suggestion of A. L. P. Green as to cards of membership; nor the resolution of Levi Pearce in regard to licensing applicants to preach; nor the resolutions of W. W. Bennett in reference to ordination of Local Preachers; nor the resolution of J. E. Edwards on publishing General Conference resolutions in the Discipline; nor that of W. C. Johnson in reference to the examination of licentiates and deacons in their studies by Presiding Elders; nor those of H. H. Montgomery in reference to making superannuated preachers and trustees members of Quarterly Conferences, and in reference to Secretaries of Quarterly Conferences.

In regard to the resolution of J. S. Key, the committee do not concur, but they think it important that the Secretaries of Annual Conferences should be specially careful in reference to statistical records.

The committee beg leave to transfer the resolution of T. L. Boswell to the committee on the Support of the Ministry.

They report that what in the resolutions of J. E. Evans and E. H. Myers, has not been anticipated by previous action, is inexpedient.

They do not recommend the proposal in the resolution of C. F. Deems and A. M. Shipp to omit Section 1 and 2 of Chapter i., Part 1, of the Discipline, but they do recommend that the Book Editor be instructed, by the adoption of this Report, to substitute "Church" for "Society" where it occurs in the Discipline as representing the idea of "Church."

In regard to the resolution of J. S. Kennedy, asking for the insertion in the Discipline of a Form for Dedicating Churches, they recommend that the committee on the reërrangement of the Discipline, called for by previous action, be instructed, by the adoption of this Report, to prepare such Form.

The resolution of H. F. Johnson in reference to ordinations, has been anticipated by previous action.

In regard to the resolution of B. Jones, they recommend that after the word "five," on page 254 of the Discipline, there be added the words, "who shall elect their own chairman, secretary, and treasurer."

They ask leave to transfer the resolution of J. W. Glenn to the Committee on Infant Church Membership.

They do not recommend the appending of proof-texts to the Articles of Religion, as proposed in the resolution of A. Davidson.

Previous action precludes the necessity of reporting on the paper on questions in Annual Conferences, submitted by E. H. Myers.

In regard to various papers on the business of Quarterly Conferences, the committee recommend the Conference to adopt the following amendment of the Discipline :

On page 57 of the Discipline, after Answer 6 to Question 4, insert :

"Let the following order of business be observed in the Quarterly Conferences :

"After the opening services let the roll be called, and the following inquiries be made :

"1. Are there any complaints or appeals ?

"2. Is there a written report of the number and state of Sunday-schools, and of the pastoral instruction of children ?

"3. Are there any recommendations: (1.) For license to preach or exhort ? (2.) For admission into the traveling connection ? (3.) Of local preachers for deacons' or elders' orders ?

"4. Are there any applications for renewal of license ?

"5. What is doing for the cause of missions ?

"6. What is the general state of the Church ?

"Let the answer to this question embrace, in a written report, the number baptized, or in any other way added to the Church, died, removed, withdrawn, and expelled, during the present quarter.

"7. What amount has been raised the present quarter for the support of the ministry, and how has it been applied ?

"8. What amounts have been raised for other benevolent enterprises of the Church ?

"9. Is there any miscellaneous business ?

"10. Where shall the next quarterly meeting be held ?

"At the fourth quarterly meeting let the report of trustees be called for."

This Report completes the action of the committee on all the papers referred to them. They ask the Conference to adopt the following resolution :

Resolved, That the Book Editor be, and is hereby, instructed to

conform the new edition of the Discipline to the changes proposed in this Report. Respectfully submitted.

THOMAS O. SUMMERS, Chairman.

New Orleans, April 26, 1866.

Bishop Early made an affecting Address to the Conference, closing with the presentation of a paper, which was read, as follows :

BELOVED BRETHREN OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE :

I am about to submit a request which I am sure you will understand does not proceed from any diminution of zeal and devotion to the holy work in which I have been, by the blessing of God, so long allowed humbly to engage. I am still willing to perform any duties which may demand my attention by your request. I am not ignorant of the fact, that the responsibilities and toils of the regular work of the Episcopacy must, in the next four years, seriously tax the strength of much younger men than myself; and when I am urged by my best friends to take into consideration the propriety of asking for a relation similar to that you have so kindly granted to Bishop Andrew, I must appreciate their kind feelings and calmly weigh their consideration for myself which they so generously illustrate.

In deference to the judgment of my friends, I therefore very respectfully ask that I be allowed to travel at will throughout the work and visit the Churches and perform such Episcopal work as may be needed at my hands.

Brethren, if I regarded this step as in anywise sundering, even in the least, the hallowed ties that bind me to you and to that glorious field of labor on which I expect to die, but from which nothing could induce me to retire for any selfish end, even my best friends could not persuade me to take it. But at the same time that I make this request, I wish to be understood as unabated in zeal for Christ and his Church, ready to live or to die for his name's sake.

God bless you, brethren, and make you in love perfect, in labors abundant, and in his service crown your work with success !

JOHN EARLY.

New Orleans, May 3, 1866.

On motion of W. A. Smith,

Resolved, That the College of Bishops be, and they are hereby, requested so to arrange their work that Bishop Early may be at liberty to travel through the Connection at his option; and as in the case of Bishops Soule and Andrew, be released from the responsibility of supervising any particular Episcopal District.

The following resolutions were offered by C. K. Marshall, and adopted by a rising vote :

1st. *Resolved*, That we deeply appreciate the feelings of our beloved and venerable Bishop Early, in asking for the relation he has solicited at our hands, and beg to assure him of the high esteem in which we hold his long and valuable services, and to express the hope that he will continue to bless the Church of his choice and affections with his godly counsels and faithful ministrations.

2d. *Resolved*, That we cordially invite Bishop Early to visit us at the sessions of Conferences, and other parts of our great field of toil, whenever it may be convenient for him to do so.

3d. *Resolved*, That we will follow our venerable Bishop with our fervent prayers, earnestly invoking the blessing of Divine Grace upon himself and his family, that the evening of his life may be filled with sustaining comforts and holy peace.

Bishop Early took the chair.

Bishop Andrew addressed the Conference in regard to its labors, approving the extension of the pastorate and lay-representation, expressing a desire that a Bishop should be sent to California, counseling harmony and zealous coöperation in carrying out the action of the Conference, and taking an affectionate leave of the members of this body.

The following resolution was offered, but not adopted :

Resolved, That this General Conference proceed to the election of an additional General Superintendent, and that our Bishops be requested to consecrate him before leaving New Orleans.

J. G. JONES,

A. L. P. GREEN.

The Bishops having been requested to give an official decision as to what is meant by the word "complaints," in the question asked in Quarterly Conferences, "Are there any complaints?" Bishop Pierce, in behalf of the College of Bishops, answered, that they consider that the word "complaints" includes cases of official neglect in the officers of the Church responsible to the Quarterly Conferences, and grievances growing out of non-payment of debt and cases of arbitration.

The Committee on Education submitted Report No. 2, which was read and adopted, as follows :—

REPORT NO. 2 OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

WHEREAS, the Phonetic system is in competition with other and long recognized systems of instruction; and whereas, the memorialist petitions

the General Conference to lend its sanction to a particular system by substituting a Phonetic Bible ; therefore,

Resolved, 1. That the committee do not consider it within their province to pass a critical judgment on the comparative merits of different modes of instruction.

2. That the committee respectfully decline to recommend to the General Conference to grant the prayer of the memorialist.

D. S. DOGGETT, Chairman.

New Orleans, April, 1866.

Report No. 1 of the Committee on Education was taken up, the part referring to the Course of Study was withdrawn, and the Report was adopted, as follows:—

REPORT NO. 1 OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The Committee on Education have had the subject, which was referred to them, under careful consideration, in the various aspects in which they felt themselves required to view it. Convinced of its unquestionable claims upon the attention of the Church, at all times, but especially in the present age, and at the present moment, they have addressed themselves to their inquiries with all the fidelity they could command, and to all the sources of information accessible to them ; and the conclusions to which they have arrived they herewith submit for the approval and adoption of the General Conference.

They deem it utterly needless to urge upon this enlightened body either the importance or the responsibilities of an enterprise acknowledged to be so inseparably connected with the interests of Christianity as the moral and intellectual culture of the rising generation within the range of our influence as a Christian denomination. You are fully alive, we doubt not, to the vital character of this great question. There is reason, however, to apprehend that the value of it, as an instrument of religion, and as an engine of ecclesiastical power and progress, is not adequately appreciated by the mass of our people. It behooves us, therefore, in the capacity in which we are now assembled, to give to them no indistinct utterance of our convictions, and to invoke them to fulfill the errand of the Church in this department of her usefulness. For, whatever principles we adopt, or whatever schemes we project, are dependent for complete success upon the coöperation, not of a few, but upon the collective resources of our entire membership. If once they could be fully enlisted, our achievements in this respect would correspond with the wants of the times, and Methodism in our hands would be invested with a subsidiary force which we all feel it sadly needs. Those resources,

if developed, will be equal to all the necessities of the occasion. Let us, therefore, solemnly avow, as the judgment of the General Conference, that an elevated and a well-directed system of literary culture, under the blessing of God, is second only to the direct agencies of the Gospel, in the improvement of our race; that, associated with, and under the sanctions of, the Gospel, it is the most potent means for advancing the Kingdom of Christ; and that a Church which neglects, or feebly and fitfully uses its mighty appliances, is suicidal of itself. The Church must keep pace with the intellectual movement of society; nay, she must lead the van, or, by an inexorable law, the momentum of the accelerated current will, in coming years, sweep from her altars myriads of worshipers. It is impossible to exaggerate the magnitude of this subject, particularly in the relations in which, in the providence of God, we now stand to it. Emerging with conscious life and with quickened energies from the wreck and the ruin of our fortunes; about to commence a new era in our history, and to shape our destinies for an indefinite future, all our plans should be dictated by a wide and comprehensive survey of every legitimate element of growth within our reach. Never before were we placed upon a platform upon which were collected so prophetically the materials with which to adjust the Church for posterity, and to produce a salutary impression upon it. If they be not as abundant as we might desire, the intensity of their influence compensates for their scarcity. To be recreant now, is to forfeit our hold upon the world of mind, and to imperil the gathered treasures of truth and experience committed to our trust.

But there is a peculiar obligation devolved upon us to furnish our quota of Christian literature to the age in which we live. A great struggle for the integrity of the faith is impending in this country. Acute and cultivated minds, endowed with the accomplishments and sustained by the prestige of high literary attainments, are throwing the suspicions of doubt upon the very foundations of revealed religion, and the subtlety of the poison is diffusing itself by scientific lectures, and by the productions of the press, into the popular mind. Free as the Southern people have hitherto been from the infection, we cannot hope to avoid it much longer. These issues between truth and error are inevitable. And as error has taken the field in the guise of science and literature, the Church must fortify herself with weapons drawn from the same armory. She must supply herself with all the advantages of a thorough knowledge of the means of defense, and protect her youth from the contagion of indigenous and imported skepticism. This momentous reason for activity in the support of literary institutions, under the patronage of the

Church, must be apparent to every intelligent observer of the signs of the times. And not only the progress of learning and the credit of the Church, but the emergencies of this severe conflict, demand the highest professional ability in our faculties, and the best attainable scholarship in our pupils.

The investigations of the committee have disclosed, on a large scale, one of the most painful events of the recent war. The cause of education amongst us has suffered a terrible calamity. The past four years have been almost an entire blank in the annals of our educational efforts. Previously to that period, as our statistics show, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, had multiplied her schools and colleges, for both sexes, with commendable zeal, over the vast extent of her territory, from the Pacific to the Atlantic Oceans, and from her Northern boundary to the Gulf of Mexico; in whose halls our youth were regularly receiving the benefits of scholastic training, entering and returning in brilliant succession. The late social convulsions interrupted and arrested the march of letters amongst us, and threw back their advancement a whole generation. The loss of four years in the formative period of life, has created an irreparable chasm in the improvement of the youth of the Southern States. Professors, teachers, students, were withdrawn from the seats of learning; their halls were vacated; text-books and apparatus were abandoned, endowments lost, and patrons impoverished. Only here and there a few maintained a precarious existence. Since the termination of the unsuccessful struggle of the South, many of these institutions have resumed their operations, but with diminished facilities, and are endeavoring, as fast as possible, to indemnify their past misfortunes. It is gratifying to observe the vitality which they display, and the vigor with which they are laboring to regain their former prosperity; and the committee are firmly persuaded that, under the fostering care of the Church, these blessed fountains of knowledge will again send forth their salutary streams, to refresh and to beautify the desert produced by the catastrophe of war. It will require, however, our united strength to restore them to their previous efficiency. But we must meet the emergency with an unfaltering purpose, and rise with determined might to the difficult yet hopeful task which lies before us.

In view of this dismal dilapidation, and also of what now appears to have been an unfortunate error, the committee believe that it is the true policy of the General Conference to discourage the unnecessary multiplication of institutions of learning for the future, and to insist upon the ample support and patronage of such as we already have; persuaded that the cause of sound learning can be better subserved by increasing the number

of students at given centers, and by more thoroughly endowing schools of every grade. What we have lost by diffusion, and what we cannot hope to achieve, under present disabilities, by division, we should endeavor to gain by concentration. By this economical process we will gradually recover our ground, consolidate our scattered capabilities, and rebuild the superstructure of our greatness in the land.

The subject of education, in a specific form, was brought to the notice of the committee by that portion of the Episcopal Address which was referred to them, and which is expressed in the following words:

“We specially bring to your attention the importance of an Institute for the proper training of young preachers. That we should make some proper arrangements for the more thorough training of our young men before they are received into the Conferences and sent forth to minister in the Church of Christ, appears to us to be so obvious as to need no argument to prove it. It behooves us to take this matter into serious and immediate consideration, and secure to the Church the invaluable advantages which the provisions we suggest can only supply.”

This recommendation, emanating from that honored body of men whose high position and jealous concern for the interests of the Church always entitle their opinions to respect and confidence, was hailed by the committee with delight. It is as creditable to them as it is the announcement of a great truth. It is the oracular exponent of the mind of the Church. It expresses, in terms equally concise and perspicuous, the actual necessity and the almost universal sentiment of Southern Methodists, and therefore relieves the committee from the labor of extended argumentation on the subject. To this point the convictions of preachers and people, with various alternations and conflicts of opinion, have been tending for years. The plausibilities and the prejudices that opposed it, have finally yielded to the stern logic of incontestible evidence, and the victory has been won by the historic development of inherent causes. The time has therefore fully come when decided action in this direction is not only possible and practicable, but positively imperative. The course of events—in other words, the order of Divine Providence—has made the issue, and we cannot evade it without recoil and retrogression. It is perfectly manifest that some response to this demand, on the part of the General Conference, is required by an authority which it would be perilous to disobey. The spectacle constantly presenting itself to us, is the disparity between the average intellectual acquisitions of our young ministers and those of the people whom they are sent to serve; a state of things produced by the unequal advantages enjoyed by the larger portion of the youth of the country, and those who usually offer themselves for admission

into the ministry. The existence of this fact is conceded, and no dogmatic reasons can reconcile the contrariety to which we refer, or answer the questions which it raises. A consciousness of intellectual superiority in the people over the ministry will engender a feeling of dissatisfaction and disgust, which cannot fail to dissolve those invisible bonds which settle the relations of ministers and congregations in despite of all conventional regulations.

In all these views there is no pretermission of the fundamental doctrine of a Divine call to the ministry and a spiritual preparation for it. We subordinate every conceivable plan of ministerial improvement to this principle. It is on this that we are to engraft all our methods. If we could not do it, it would be a thousand times better to dispense with them altogether, than to invert the constitution of the Christian ministry as established by Jesus Christ. But both are perfectly harmonious, and it is their due proportion which is demanded. Shall we fulfill this just requisition, or perpetrate the paradox of attempting to obey the will of God by violating the designs of his providence? The reply admits of no equivocation.

Again, it is not proposed to infraet, by any such provision, our rules of reception into our Conferences. It is not proposed to make a certain course of theological education in a Biblical Institute indispensable to admission into the ministry. It is designed to furnish sufficient means of instruction to all candidates who may voluntarily use them, while at the same time we erect some common standard of excellence to which all must come whom we invest with ministerial functions. The committee are of opinion that this disciplinary standard should be so elevated that none shall be admitted into the ministry who do not possess well-defined ideas of the doctrines and polity of the Church, a ready and accurate use of their vernacular language, and a thorough knowledge of all those ordinary branches of education which bear directly upon their pulpit performances. Those who may not enjoy the benefits conferred by a Biblical Institute, should be peremptorily required to reach this common standard before their admission; while those who do enjoy them, are at liberty to go beyond it, and thus leave the operation of the new arrangement to the tide of enlightened influence flowing into the Church.

In consistency with these modifications, the course of study prescribed for those who have been admitted into the ministry should be proportionably advanced and rigid each successive year. It should, in the judgment of the committee, be revised and adjusted to the proposed plan, and none should be graduated to orders in the Church who shall not have been recommended by the examining committees.

The committee unanimously concur with the Bishops in their Address, that there should be an Institute for the training of young preachers, possessing in itself all the facilities for ministerial education. They would rejoice to see the day when this ideal could be realized. But they regard such an enterprise impracticable in the present condition of the country, and the attempt to execute it as involving a delay which they are not willing to risk. We should inaugurate some plan for immediate operation, which will substitute, as far as possible, a perfected system; an approximation to which they believe to be attainable without the erection of new buildings, and without exhausting drafts upon our people. Let there be, therefore, associated with our Colleges, not Biblical Chairs, but Biblical Schools, properly so-called, fully organized, comprising instruction in the original languages of the Scriptures, in ecclesiastical history, in Biblical criticism and hermeneutics, in dogmatic and practical theology, and in homiletics and pastoral duties. Young men passing through a part or the whole of a college curriculum, would thus have direct access to these schools, and the faculties and libraries of our colleges would, in a great degree, subserve the present wants of the Church. Let our people be exhorted to sustain these schools, so as to enable indigent young men to pursue their studies in them; and let the officers of these schools be required to adopt measures to prevent the intrusion of improper persons into them. By these means the Church will be able, forthwith, to commence the good work, lay the foundation of a maturer system, should it be desired, and carry the fruits of the experiment into complete institutions hereafter to be established.

On the whole subject of education, both literary and biblical, the committee offer the following resolutions:

1. That we regard education, in general, as an indispensable part of our vocation as a Church.
2. That in order the more effectually to promote it, in the present financial prostration of the country, within our bounds, it is the wisest policy to sustain existing institutions of learning among us, and not to establish new ones, unless in cases of the most obvious propriety.
3. That more than ever the highest grade of instruction should be secured, combined with the constant inculcation of evangelical religion.
4. That the period has fully arrived when it is the duty of the Church to provide specific means for the education of young preachers.
5. That in accordance with the suggestions of the Bishops, in their Address to the General Conference, we recommend the establishment of an Institute for that purpose.
6. That it is at this time most expedient that Biblical Schools be estab-

lished in connection with the Colleges which are under the control of the Annual Conferences.

7. That the following clause be added to Answer 2d, Question 1st, Section 8th, Chapter 2d, Page 71, of the Discipline, commencing after the word "mission": "Nor shall a vote be taken upon the admission of any candidate who shall not have passed an approved examination upon the course of study prescribed by the Bishops, before a committee appointed by the Conference for the purpose."

8. That Answer 2d, Question 2d, Chapter 2d, on page 74 of the Discipline, shall read as follows: "Before any preacher shall be admitted into full connection, or ordained deacon or elder, he shall have passed an approved examination upon the course of study prescribed by the Bishops for candidates for the ministry. The examining committees shall be appointed by the several Annual Conferences, and shall hold their office for four years; and in no case shall a vote be taken to elect any one to deacons' or elders' orders until he shall have been recommended by the examining committee."

Respectfully submitted.

D. S. DOGGETT, Chairman.

New Orleans, April 26, 1866.

The Conference then proceeded to determine the place and time of the next session.

Memphis, St. Louis, Louisville, Covington and Newport were severally nominated as the place. Memphis was chosen as the place, and the first Wednesday in May, 1870, as the time, of the next session of the General Conference.

S. Register obtained leave to withdraw the Report on Infant Church Membership.

Resolutions of thanks to citizens and pastors of Churches in New Orleans; railroad and steamboat companies, for remission or reduction of fare to the Delegates; Bishops and Secretaries of Conference; the Sexton, and Mr. Cannon, who attended to letters, etc.; were offered by C. F. Deems, H. A. C. Walker, and J. C. Keener, and adopted with rising votes.

Bishop Pierce announced Bishop McTyeire, T. O. Summers and A. L. P. Green as the committee to reërrange the Discipline.

The following resolutions were then offered and adopted:—

WHEREAS, the Hon. Russell Houston and the Hon. John S. Brien, of Tennessee, have, by their faithful legal services in behalf of our Publishing House, brought us under special obligations to them; therefore,

Resolved, That the Book Agent be, and is hereby, instructed to prepare

with suitable inscription a handsome Family Bible and Hymn Book, and present them in the name of this General Conference.

S. WATSON,

A. H. REDFORD.

Resolved, That a commission, consisting of five members of this body and two Bishops, be appointed to confer with a commission, if one be appointed, from the General Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, now in session in Georgetown, D. C., on the subject of union between the Methodist Protestant Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, with power to settle terms of union.

Bishops Pierce and McTyeire, C. F. Deems, J. E. Evans, S. Register, N. Head and L. M. Lee were appointed said committee.

The Minutes were read and approved. The Conference then united in singing a part of the 259th Hymn, and in prayer led by Bishop Pierce, and then adjourned with the benediction by Bishop Early.

Thus closed the Fifth General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

JOSHUA SOULE,
JAMES O. ANDREW,
ROBERT PAINE,
GEORGE F. PIERCE,
JOHN EARLY,
HUBBARD H. KAVANAUGH,
WILLIAM M. WIGHTMAN,
ENOCH M. MARVIN,
DAVID S. DOGGETT,
HOLLAND N. McTYEIRE.

THOMAS O. SUMMERS, *Secretary*.

E. H. MYERS, }
JOHN S. MARTIN, } *Assistant Secretaries.*

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